

## Opioid Oral Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) Conversion Factors<sup>1,2</sup>

<u>Type of Opioid (strength units)</u>	<u>MME Conversion Factor</u>
Buprenorphine film/tablet <sup>3</sup> (mg)	30
Buprenorphine patch <sup>4</sup> (mcg/hr)	12.6
Buprenorphine film (mcg)	0.03
Butorphanol (mg)	7
Codeine (mg)	0.15
Dihydrocodeine (mg)	0.25
Fentanyl buccal or SL tablets, or lozenge/troche <sup>5</sup> (mcg)	0.13
Fentanyl film or oral spray <sup>6</sup> (mcg)	0.18
Fentanyl nasal spray <sup>7</sup> (mcg)	0.16
Fentanyl patch <sup>8</sup> (mcg)	7.2
Hydrocodone (mg)	1
Hydromorphone (mg)	4
Levorphanol tartrate (mg)	11
Meperidine hydrochloride (mg)	0.1
Methadone <sup>9</sup> (mg)	3
>0, <= 20	4
>20, <=40	8
>40, <=60	10
>60	12
Morphine (mg)	1
Opium (mg)	1
Oxycodone (mg)	1.5
Oxymorphone (mg)	3
Pentazocine (mg)	0.37
Tapentadol <sup>10</sup> (mg)	0.4
Tramadol (mg)	0.1

<sup>1</sup>The MME conversion factor is intended only for analytic purposes where prescription data is used to calculate daily MME. It is to be used in the formula: Strength per Unit X (Number of Units/ Days Supply) X MME conversion factor = MME/Day. This value does not constitute clinical guidance or recommendations for converting patients from one form of opioid analgesic to another. Please consult the manufacturer's full prescribing information for such guidance. Use of this file for the purposes of any clinical decision-making warrants caution.

<sup>2</sup>National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. CDC compilation of benzodiazepines, muscle relaxants, stimulants, zolpidem, and opioid analgesics with oral morphine milligram equivalent conversion factors, 2016 version. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2016. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/media/>. For more information, send an email to [Mbohm@cdc.gov](mailto:Mbohm@cdc.gov).

<sup>3</sup>Buprenorphine formulations with a FDA approved indication for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) are excluded from Medicare's Overutilization Monitoring System's opioid overutilization reporting.

<sup>4</sup>The MME conversion factor for buprenorphine patches is based on the assumption that one milligram of parenteral buprenorphine is equivalent to 75 milligrams of oral morphine and that one patch delivers the dispensed micrograms per hour over a 24 hour day. Example: 5 ug/hr buprenorphine patch X 24 hrs = 120 ug/day buprenorphine = 0.12 mg/day = 9 mg/day oral MME. In other words, the conversion factor not accounting for days of use would be 9/5 or 1.8.

However, since the buprenorphine patch remains in place for 7 days, we have multiplied the conversion factor by 7 (1.8 X 7 = 12.6). In this example, MME/day for four 5 ug/hr buprenorphine patches dispensed for use over 28 days would work out as follows: Example: 5 ug/hr buprenorphine patch X (4 patches/28 days) X 12.6 = 9 MME/day. Please note that because this allowance has been made based on the typical dosage of one buprenorphine patch per 7 days, you should first change all Days Supply in your prescription data to follow this standard, i.e., Days Supply for buprenorphine patches= # of patches x 7.

<sup>5</sup>The MME conversion factor for fentanyl buccal tablets, sublingual tablets, and lozenges/troche is 0.13. This conversion factor should be multiplied by the number of micrograms in a given tablet or lozenge/troche.

<sup>6</sup>The MME conversion factor for fentanyl film and oral spray is 0.18. This reflects a 40% greater bioavailability for films compared to lozenges/tablets and 38% greater bioavailability for oral sprays compared to lozenges/tablets.

<sup>7</sup>The MME conversion factor for fentanyl nasal spray is 0.16, which reflects a 20% greater bioavailability for sprays compared to lozenges/tablets.

<sup>8</sup> The MME conversion factor for fentanyl patches is based on the assumption that one milligram of parenteral fentanyl is equivalent to 100 milligrams of oral morphine and that one patch delivers the dispensed micrograms per hour over a 24 hour day. Example: 25 ug/hr fentanyl patch X 24 hrs = 600 ug/day fentanyl = 60 mg/day oral morphine milligram equivalent.

In other words, the conversion factor not accounting for days of use would be 60/25 or 2.4.

However, since the fentanyl patch remains in place for 3 days, we have multiplied the conversion factor by 3 (2.4 X 3 = 7.2). In this example, MME/day for ten 25 ug/hr fentanyl patches dispensed for use over 30 days would work out as follows:

Example: 25 ug/hr fentanyl patch X (10 patches/30 days) X 7.2 = 60 MME/day. Please note that because this allowance has been made based on the typical dosage of one fentanyl patch per 3 days, you should first change all Days Supply in your prescription data to follow this standard, i.e., Days Supply for fentanyl patches= # of patches X 3.

<sup>9</sup> The CDC MME conversion factor to calculate morphine milligram equivalents is 3. CMS uses this conversion factor when analyzing Medicare population opioid use. CMS uses the graduated methadone MME conversion factors to calculate MME within the Overutilization Monitoring System (OMS) for identifying and reporting potential opioid overutilizers.

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating\\_total\\_daily\\_dose-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Tapentadol is a mu receptor agonist and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor. Oral MMEs are based on degree of mu-receptor agonist activity, but it is unknown if this drug is associated with overdose in the same dose-dependent manner as observed with medications that are solely mu receptor agonists