

23. USEFUL DRUGS⁽¹⁾

CONTROLLED DRUG PRESCRIBING (from B.N.F. guidelines) ⁽²⁾

Prescriptions ordering Controlled Drugs (subject to prescription requirements) must be signed and dated by the prescriber and specify the prescriber's address. The prescription must always state in the prescriber's own handwriting in ink or otherwise so as to be indelible:

1. The name and address of the patient
2. The form and where appropriate the strength of the preparation
3. The total quantity of the preparation, or the number of dose units, in both words and figures
4. The dose

A prescription may order a Controlled Drug to be dispensed by instalments; the amount of the instalments and the intervals to be observed must be specified. Prescriptions ordering 'repeats' on the same form are **not** permitted. A prescription is valid for 13 weeks from the date stated thereon.

It is an offence for a doctor to issue an incomplete prescription and a pharmacist is **not** allowed to dispense a Controlled Drug unless all the information required by law is given on the prescription. Failure to comply with the regulations concerning the writing of prescriptions will result in inconvenience to patients and delay in supplying the necessary medicine.

1 Twycross, R. et al (2002) *Palliative Care Formulary 2* Oxford: Radcliffe Medical Press

2 British National Formulary (2005) *Prescribing in palliative care*. 49 March : 14

CONTROLLED DRUG FORMULATIONS

Drug	Strength or Concentration	Pack Size
Buprenorphine patch	32.5, 50, 70 micrograms / h	packs of 5
Diamorphine Injection - Ampoules	5mg, 10mg, 30mg, 100mg, 500mg	Pack of 5
Fentanyl patches (Durogesic)	25micrograms/hour, 50micrograms/hour, 75micrograms/hour, 100micrograms/hour	Pack of 5
Fentanyl (oral transmucosal) (lozenge) (Actiq)	200micrograms, 400micrograms, 600micrograms, 800micrograms, 1200micrograms	Pack of 3 or 30
Hydromorphone immediate release capsules (Palladone)	1.3mg, 2.6mg	Strips of 14 Pack of 56
Hydromorphone m/r TWICE DAILY capsules (Palladone SR)	2mg, 4mg, 8mg, 16mg, 24mg	Strips of 14 Pack of 56
Methadone tablets (Physeptone)	5mg	Strips of 20 Pack of 100
Methadone linctus	2mg in 5ml	500ml
Methadone mixture	1mg in 1ml	500ml
Morphine sulphate i/r oral solution	10mg in 5ml (Oramorph) or 10mg in 10ml	100ml, 300ml
Morphine sulphate i/r concentrated oral solution (Oramorph concentrated)	20mg in 1 ml	120ml
Morphine sulphate i/r tablets (Sevredol)	10mg, 20mg, 50mg	Strips of 14 Pack of 56
Morphine sulphate m/r TWICE DAILY tablets (MST), (Zomorph)	5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 30mg, 60mg, 100mg, 200mg	Strips of 10 Pack of 60
Morphine sulphate m/r ONCE DAILY capsules (MXL)	30mg, 60mg, 90mg, 120mg 150mg, 200mg	Strips of 14 Pack of 28
Morphine sulphate m/r ONCE DAILY capsules (Morcap SR)	20mg, 50mg, 100mg	Strip of 10 Pack 30 or 60
Oxycodone i/r (OxyNorm capsules)	5mg, 10mg, 20mg	Pack of 56
Oxycodone i/r (OxyNorm liquid)	5mg in 5ml 10mg in 1ml (concentrate)	250mls 120mls

Drug	Strength or Concentration	Pack Size
Oxycodone m/r (OxyContin tablets)	5mg, 10mg, 20mg 40mg, 80mg	Pack of 56
Oxycodone injection Ampoules-	10mg / ml	1ml and 2ml ampoules packs of 5

The dose regimes of medication used in palliative care are constantly under review and are subject to revision. The authors of these guidelines can take no responsibility for prescribing decisions, which as ever, remain the responsibility of the clinician.