

# PALLIATIVE MEDS INFO NEWSLETTER

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Palliative Meds Info is a medicines information service which provides advice on all aspects of medicines use in palliative care. Contact us at Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services on 01 4912578 / email [palliativemedinfo@olh.ie](mailto:palliativemedinfo@olh.ie) or view the Palliative Meds Info webpage available from the OLH&CS website [www.olh.ie](http://www.olh.ie)



## Treatment options in the management of sialorrhea

We have developed guidance on treatment options for the management of sialorrhea in patients with palliative care needs. Sialorrhea (excessive drooling) is a term used to describe leakage of saliva from the mouth. There is limited information on the pharmacological management options for this condition and all underlying causes of sialorrhea should be identified and treated. Non-pharmacological options should also be considered prior to proceeding with pharmacological treatment. Most of the pharmacological options discussed in this document relate to agents acting on the muscarinic receptors. These receptors present in the salivary glands are very responsive to antimuscarinic medications and inhibition of saliva generally occurs at lower doses than required for other antimuscarinic effects. Please see full details here: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Treatment-options-in-the-management-of-sialorrhea.pdf>



## Can tranexamic acid be applied topically to a bleeding wound?

The use of topical tranexamic acid solution for injection is unlicensed however we have experience with its use at OLH&CS. It is recommended that gauze is soaked with the undiluted contents of a standard 500mg/5ml ampoule of tranexamic acid solution for injection and applied to the affected wound with pressure for 10 minutes. The gauze can then be left in situ with a dressing. Any medications possibly pre-disposing the patient to an increased risk of bleeding should also be reviewed. Please see full details here: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Topical-tranexamic-acid-for-a-bleeding-wound.pdf>

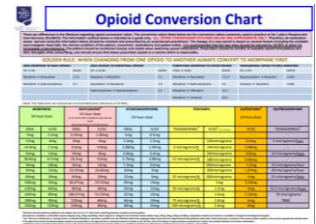


### Updates to documents on our website

- **Methadone - From hospital to home practical information**

Our 'Methadone - From Hospital to Home Practical Information' document has been updated. Please contact us by phone, email or use the online request form on our website if you require a copy of this document.

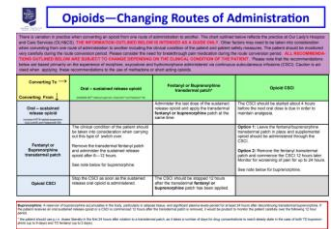
## • Opioid Conversion Chart



The image shows a thumbnail of a table titled "Opioid Conversion Chart". The table is organized into columns for different opioid types and routes of administration, with rows listing various opioids and their corresponding conversion ratios.

We have updated our 'Opioid Conversion Chart'. The ratio of Transdermal Buprenorphine: Oral Morphine has been adjusted to 1:100 as per literature best practice. Guidance on the conversion between parenteral fentanyl and other opioids has been added to the table. Please note, IV/SC fentanyl is not routinely used in OLH&CS and the addition is intended to facilitate rotation of patients admitted on IV/SC fentanyl to other opioids. Opioid conversions presented are approximate only. Numbers presented on the table are rounded to two decimal places, to reflect the conversion ratios used. Some of these doses may not be deliverable, and drug formulations, strengths and volumes should be taken into account by the prescriber before prescribing. Clinicians may decide to adjust the recommendations where appropriate for individual patients. Please click here for link to full document: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Opioid-Conversion-Chart-2018-2.pdf>

## • Opioids - Changing Routes of Administration



The image shows a thumbnail of a table titled "Opioids - Changing Routes of Administration". The table is organized into columns for different opioid types and routes of administration, with rows listing various opioids and their corresponding conversion ratios.

Our document 'Opioids - Changing Routes of Administration' has been updated. Our updated document includes additional information on buprenorphine transdermal patches when switching routes of administration. We would advise regular users of this chart to become familiar with the updated version. Please click here for link to full document: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Opioids-Changing-Routes-of-Administration-2018.pdf>

## • Opioid Transdermal Patches

We have updated our document entitled 'Opioid Transdermal Patches'. This updated document provides further information on Fentadur® which is now marketed on the EU market as a matrix fentanyl patch. Information previously had advised these patches should not be cut as they were formulated as reservoir patches. However, given the formulation change there is no obvious contraindication to the halving of these patches. Of note, we have no practical experience cutting Fentadur® patches in our own setting. The ratio of TD Buprenorphine: PO Morphine in this document has also been amended as per the updated opioid conversion chart. Please click here for link to full document: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Opioid-Transdermal-Patches-2018.pdf>

## • Levetiracetam in a Syringe Pump 2018

Our document on the use of subcutaneous levetiracetam in palliative medicine has been updated with some minor additions to information on compatibility and cautions for use. Please click here for link to full document: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Levetiracetam-in-a-Syringe-Pump-November-2018.pdf>

