



Continuous Subcutaneous Infusion Prescribing

Your inpatient is currently prescribed the following analgesia for chronic cancer pain:

- OxyCONTIN[®] 30 mg bd po
- OxyNORM[®] 10 mg 6-hrly prn po

The Palliative Care team have recommended commencing a continuous subcutaneous infusion (CSCI) containing oxycodone plus anti-emetics.

What dose of oxycodone would Palliative Care have been likely to recommend?

- (i) 50 mg SC over 24 hrs
- (ii) 40 mg SC over 24 hrs
- (iii) 30 mg SC over 24 hrs
- (iv) 20 mg SC over 24 hrs

Answer: (iii) 30 mg SC over 24 hrs

Calculation

CSCI oxycodone dose

- 1. Calculate the oxycodone requirement over 24 hrs by considering the dose of sustained-release opioid, i.e. OxyCONTIN®, alone. The ‘as required’ opioid, OxyNORM®, is not included in the calculation.
Therefore, 30 mg OxyCONTIN® bd = 60 mg in 24 hrs.
- 2. Convert to the equivalent SC dose by halving the oral dose, i.e. 60 mg oral oxycodone = *30 mg SC oxycodone over 24 hrs.*

Breakthrough oxycodone dose

Calculate the breakthrough dose as 1/6th the total 24-hrly SC dose. Prescribe with a 6-hrly or 4-hrly frequency, e.g. *5 mg oxycodone SC 6-hrly, as required.*

Prescribing a CSCI

- Prescribe using the EPR syringe driver plan. Find the plan by typing ‘syringe’ or ‘driver’ into the orders window.
Syringe Driver for INPATIENT Symptom Control Plan
- Don’t forget to discontinue the oral oxycodone.



Oxycodone:
Key Points

Preparations Available

- Brand: OxyCONTIN®
- sustained-release tab
- Brand: OxyNORM®
- immediate-release cap
 - oral liquid 1 mg/mL
 - injection 50 mg/mL
- Unbranded
- injection 10 mg/mL

Potency

Oxycodone is approx. TWICE as potent as morphine.

Conversion

Halve the oral oxycodone dose to determine the equivalent SC oxycodone dose.