

Appendix 1

Methadone Conversion Chart ^[4]

It is not possible to directly convert the effects, duration and dependence potential of other abused drugs to a fixed equivalent in methadone. Therefore this chart ^[4] must be used with caution. If you have any queries, please contact SDAS on 01722 820390 as they should be able to help you

Opioid/Opiate	Preparation	Methadone Dose
Diamorphine (heroin)	Intravenous	10 mg ampoule
		30 mg ampoule
	Oral	10 mg
	Street/illicit supply	1 gram smoked *
		40-60 mg
		1 gram iv *
		80 mg
Methadone	Intravenous	10 mg ampoule
Morphine	Intravenous	10 mg ampoule
	Oral	10 mg
	Rectal	10 mg
Dipipanone (Diconal)	Oral	10 mg
Dihydrocodeine (DF118)	Oral	30 mg
Dextromoramide (Palfium)	Oral	5 mg
		10 mg
Pethidine	Intravenous	50 mg ampoule
	Oral	50 mg
Buprenorphine** (Temgesic)	Intravenous	300 microgram ampoule
		200 microgram tablet
Pentazocine**(Fortral)	Oral	25 mg tablet
		50 mg capsule
Codeine linctus 100ml	Oral	300 mg codeine phosphate
Codeine phosphate	Oral	15 mg tablet
		30 mg tablet
		60 mg tablet
Gee's linctus 100ml	Oral	16 mg anhydrous morphine
J Collis Brown 100ml	Oral	10 mg extract of opium

* NB because of the variation in purity of street heroin, the equivalent dose should be taken as approximate. It may be better to err on the side of caution and prescribe a lower dose and titrate against withdrawal

** These drugs have opioid agonist and antagonist actions. Please refer to the latest edition of the BNF section 4.7