**Actively Dying Protocol Cont’d**

**Opioid Naïve definition:** patient has received less than 60 mg of oral *morphine* equivalents daily for less than 7 consecutive days

**TIPS FOR STOPPING ORAL MEDICATION:**

- If patient can no longer swallow stop all oral medications. Some may need to be converted to another route
- If unsure of which medications to stop after reviewing tool for stopping medications at end of life, consult palliative care
- consider purpose of medications and impact if stopped ie:
  - Do not stop fentaNYL patch on dying patients
  - Do not automatically stop steroids – can be converted to subcutaneous route
  - Some diuretics may be beneficial to continue for symptom management of dyspnea

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**Opioid Equianalgesic Conversion Worksheet**

**1. Potency comparison**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opioid</th>
<th>oxyCODONE</th>
<th>morphine</th>
<th>HYDROMorphine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relative potency: when switching drugs, reduce dose 20-25% (4)</td>
<td>1.5x stronger than morphine</td>
<td>Subcutaneous 2x stronger than oral dose</td>
<td>5x stronger than morphine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**2. Converting oral oxyCODONE to subcutaneous HYDROMorphine**

1. Add up total *oxyCODONE* dose in last 24 hours = 24-hour oral *oxyCODONE* dose
2. Multiply 24-hour *oxyCODONE* dose by 1.5 = 24-hour oral *morphine* dose
3. Divide 24-hour oral *morphine* dose by 2 = 24-hour subcutaneous *morphine* dose
4. Divide 24-hour subcutaneous *morphine* dose by 5 = Equianalgesic 24-hour subcutaneous HYDROMorphine dose
5. Multiply equianalgesic 24-hour subcutaneous HYDROMorphine dose by 0.75 (25% reduction) = Adjusted 24-hour subcutaneous HYDROMorphine dose
6. Divide adjusted 24-hour subcutaneous HYDROMorphine dose by 6 = Subcutaneous HYDROMorphine dose every 4 hours
7. Divide adjusted 24-hour subcutaneous HYDROMorphine dose by 10 = Breakthrough dose given subcutaneously every 1 hour PRN

**3. Converting oral Morphine/HYDROMorphine to subcutaneous Morphine/HYDROMorphine**

1. Add up total oral dose of Morphine/HYDROMorphine in last 24 hours = 24-hour oral Morphine/HYDROMorphine dose
2. Divide 24-hour oral dose by 2 = 24-hour subcutaneous Morphine/HYDROMorphine
3. Divide 24-hour subcutaneous dose by 6 = Subcutaneous Morphine /HYDROMorphine dose every 4 hours
4. Divide 24-hour subcutaneous dose by 10 = Breakthrough dose given subcutaneously every 1 hour PRN

**4. Calculation of breakthrough dose of HYDROMorphine for fentaNYL Patches users**

**fentaNYL Patch** | Continue current dose if effective | Divide current dose of fentaNYL by 25 = breakthrough dose of HYDROMorphine given subcutaneously every 1 hour PRN