

MORPHINE SULFATE ORAL SOLUTION 20 MG/1 ML
Instruction Sheet

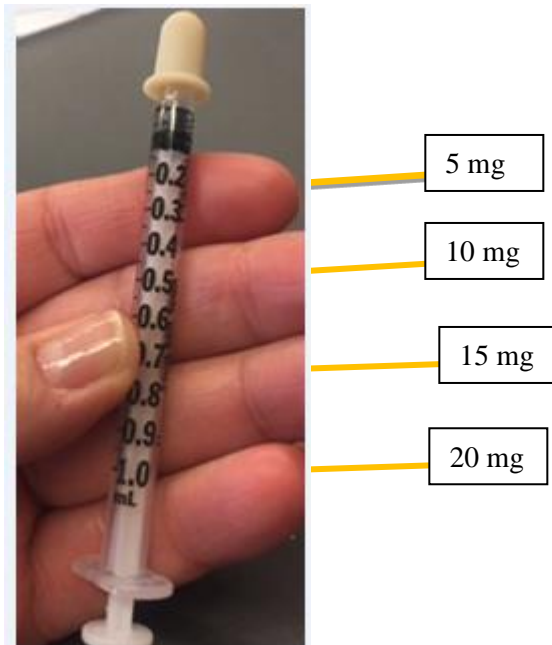
**HIGH ALERT
MEDICATION**

Morphine is used to control pain and relieve breathing problems. It is an opioid medication. Your hospice nurse will direct you on the amount to use and show you how to give the medication. Initial doses given are low. They are gradually increased to relieve the person's level of pain or shortness of breath.

Many people worry about using morphine and that it will cause the person to die sooner. Morphine helps the maintain comfort throughout the illness and up to the time of death. The person will worsen because of the illness with or without the morphine. In fact, research suggests that using opioids to treat pain or breathing trouble near the end of life may help a person to live a bit longer. Another thing that people worry about is addiction. When this medication is used at end of life to treat symptoms, this is not an issue.

Directions: Use 1 ml syringe or the eyedropper that comes with the medication.

- To give 5mg draw up 0.25ml
- To give 10mg draw up 0.5ml
- To give 15mg draw up 0.75ml
- To give 20mg draw up 1 ml (ml's are the same as cc's)



MORPHINE SULFATE CONCENTRATE 20 MG/1 ML**Instruction Sheet (continued)****HIGH ALERT
MEDICATION**

Please use extra care when preparing the medication. It is important to use the correct amount. This liquid is a concentrated oral solution, so very small liquid amounts are given. In the home you can reuse the syringes and/or eyedropper after rinsing with soap, warm water and air drying. Prior to washing, take the syringe apart. Your nurse can provide you with additional syringes if requested. Syringes may be disposed of in the garbage. In facilities, a new syringe is used each time. They are pre-drawn and labeled by the facilities' pharmacy.

Morphine Sulfate may be swallowed; however, if the patient is unable to swallow or has difficulty swallowing, you may place the medication under the tongue or in the cheek between the teeth and cheek. Morphine Sulfate will then be absorbed into the oral mucosa tissue.

Morphine Sulfate is a rapid acting medication and is usually effective within ten to twenty minutes. If the medication dose does not appear to have relieved the symptoms, please call the nurse for further direction.

Side effects of Morphine Sulfate include drowsiness, dizziness, lightheadedness, itching, nausea/vomiting, mental changes. Do not drive a vehicle, operate machinery, or drink alcohol when taking morphine sulfate. Do not share this medication with anyone else. Please notify your nurse if you are experiencing any side effects of the medication.

Taking opioid medications, like Morphine Sulfate, may cause constipation. Please discuss a bowel program with your nurse to ensure that constipation is not an issue.