

OPIOID QUICK TIPS

Pharmacodynamics of Opioids:

- Time to peak effect / Duration of Action
- PO Opioids: 30-60 minutes / 3-4 hours
- IV Opioids: 5-15 minutes / 3-4 hours
- Time to peak effect is the same for analgesia, relief of dyspnea, and sedation

Continuous infusions – best practices:

- Typically need 6-8 hours of controlled symptoms to calculate a continuous opioid infusion
- If starting a continuous infusion, do not change more often than every 6 hours. Adjust infusion dose based on the 24 hour sum of PRNs

Relative Strengths & Conversion

Opioid Agent	Oral Dose	IV Dose
Morphine	30	10
Oxycodone	20	--
Hydromorphone	6	1.5

If Using Opioids, Start a Bowel Regimen:

- Goal is 1 BM QD or QOD, no straining
- Senna 2 tabs q HS, can increase to 4 tabs BID
- Add Miralax 17 gm daily, can increase to BID
- Bisacodyl 10 mg suppository if no BM in 72 hrs