



Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Saturdays & Holidays
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Sundays & Christmas
Noon to 4:00 P.M.

IT'S ABOUT PAIN

A monthly service of Kirkpatrick Family Care

Vol. 2. Nuber 6, February 2018

COSTS OF MEDICATIONS, (ESP. IF YOUR DOSE EXCEEDS 90 MG of MORPHINE)

Unfortunately, despite fewer written prescriptions, the death rates from opioid overdoses are skyrocketing. Some people are wondering if restricting scripts is causing many pain patients, as well as recreational addicts, to turn to unregulated heroin, instead of FDA approved prescription opioids obtained legally or fraudulently.

Some insurance companies are limiting coverage; they'll pay only for 90 mg morphine (or equivalent) daily dose. Here are some equivalents of 90mg of morphine, and the prices per tablet (via GoodRx.com prices for 30 tablets at the lowest cost chain pharmacy in our county), in case your dose exceeds the Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) of 90 (C.F. means conversion factor—multiply by C.F. to get MED):

- Hydrocodone 5mg, (C.F. 1), 18 tabs, cost is \$0.30 per tab
- Hydrocodone 10mg, (C.F. 1), 9 tabs, cost \$0.33 per tab
- Oxycodone 5mg, (C.F. 1.5), 12 tabs, cost \$0.22 per tab
- Oxycodone 10mg, (C.F. 1.5), 6 tabs, cost \$0.33 per tab
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) 2mg, (C.F. 4), 11 tabs, cost \$0.26 per tab
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) 4mg, (C.F. 4), 5.5 tabs, cost \$0.22 per tab
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) 8mg, (C.F. 4), 2.75 tabs, cost \$0.67 per tab
- Oxymorphone 5mg IR or ER, (C.F. 3), 6 tabs, cost \$2.80 for ER and \$0.66 for IR, per tab
- Oxymorphone 10mg IR or ER, (C.F. 3), 3 tabs, cost \$5.27 for ER and \$0.93 for IR, per tab
- Morphine 15mg, (C.F. 1), 6 tabs, cost \$0.54 for ER and \$0.34 for IR, per tab
- Morphine 30mg, (C.F. 1), 3 tabs, cost \$0.83 for ER and \$0.35 for IR, per tab
- Tylenol 3 (30mg codeine), (C.F. 0.3), 30 tabs, cost \$0.32 per tab
- Tylenol 4 (60mg codeine), (C.F. 0.3), 15 tabs, cost \$0.33 per tab
- Tramadol 50mg, (C.F. 0.1), 14 tabs, cost \$0.13 per tab
- Methadone 10mg, (C.F. 4), 2.2 tabs, cost \$0.17 per tab
- Fentanyl patch 12mcg, (C.F. 2.4), (30 MED), cost \$8.15 per patch
- Fentanyl patch 25mcg, (C.F. 2.4), (60MED), cost \$5.20 per patch
- Fentanyl patch 37.5 mcg, (C.F.2.4), (90MED), cost \$25.92 per patch
- Fentanyl patch 50mcg, (C.F. 2.4), (120MED), cost \$7.35 per patch

So, what if you need more than 90MED for pain control? Take your dose and convert to MED (multiply by C.F.). Subtract 90mg. Now, to figure YOUR COST for the overage, divide by CF to get number of tablets or patches, then multiply by the rate per tablet and you have your monthly cost.

This may motivate you to taper down your dose (good), or to select methadone as the low cost alternative (hazardous due to unpredictable duration of action in any particular patient, and hence, risk of overage and suppression of breathing).



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