Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)

Note: This consensus algorithm excludes patients who are in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), perioperative or pre-procedural settings, or are currently receiving epidural or intrathecal analgesia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pain Assessment and Treatment – Inpatient .......................................................... Pages 2-3
Pain Assessment and Treatment – Outpatient ....................................................... Page 4
Quick Pediatric Reference Guide ........................................................................ Page 5
APPENDIX A: Comprehensive Pediatric Pain Assessment .................................. Page 6
APPENDIX B: Pediatric Pain Scales ..................................................................... Page 7
APPENDIX C: Complementary and Integrative Therapy ...................................... Page 8
APPENDIX D: Non-opioids for Pediatric Pain Management ................................. Page 9
APPENDIX E: Pediatric Opioid Dose Considerations .......................................... Pages 10
APPENDIX F: Pediatric Opioid Side Effects – Prevention and Management .......... Pages 11-12
APPENDIX G: Pediatric Specialty Services Consultations Guidelines .................. Page 13
APPENDIX H: Adjuvant “Co-analgesics” for Neuropathic Pain Syndromes and Chronic Pain Pages 14-15
APPENDIX I: Pain Management Education for Pediatric Patients and Family Prior to Discharge ...... Pages 16-17
APPENDIX J: Pediatric Opioid Side Effects – Prevention and Management .......... Pages 18
APPENDIX K: Equianalgesic Opioid Dose Conversion ........................................ Pages 19-20
APPENDIX L: Equianalgesic Opioid Dose Conversion ........................................ Pages 21-22
APPENDIX M: Treatment Services ...................................................................... Page 23
Suggested Readings ............................................................................................. Pages 24-25
Development Credits ........................................................................................... Page 26
Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years) (Inpatient)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

Note: This consensus algorithm excludes patients who are in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), perioperative or pre-procedural settings, or are currently receiving epidural or intrathecal analgesia.

**PPG = personalized pain goal**

1. **Assess for pain** at each visit or interaction using appropriate available pain scale.
2. **Consider consulting Child Life and other Complementary/Integrative therapies (Appendix C)**

- **For patients not currently taking opioids:**
  - Consider non-opioids (Appendix D) or if contraindicated, consider weak opioids (Appendix E), as needed for pain

- **For patients currently taking opioids:**
  - Continue current analgesic regimen or consider dose changes as clinically indicated
  - If patient is currently taking a long-acting opioid, consider adding a short-acting opioid for breakthrough pain. The breakthrough dose is calculated as 10-20% of the total daily dose, given every 1 to 4 hours.
  - Manage opioid induced side effects as clinically indicated (Appendix F)

- For patients on opioids, ensure a scheduled bowel regimen.

3. **Consultation services that specialize in pain management**

4. **Supportive Care**

5. **Consult specialty consult**

6. **Reassess pain, PPG, and current score using appropriate available pain scale**

- **If using opioids, reassess opioid side effects every 4 hours or at each interaction and subsequent visit**

7. **If frequent prn doses required and pain anticipated for greater than one day**

- **Consider titrating scheduled and short-acting opioids**

- **Consult specialty service**

- **Reassess opioid side effects within 1 hour of short-acting opioid administration**

- **Reassess pain, PPG, and current score using appropriate available pain scale**

- **If using opioids, reassess opioid side effects every 4 hours or at each interaction and subsequent visit**

**Note for all patients:**

- Consider using appropriate adjuvants (Appendix H) and/or Complementary/Integrative therapies (Appendix C), bowel regimen (Appendix F), Patient Education (Appendix I), and psychosocial support as appropriate (Appendix G)

- If frequent prn doses required and pain anticipated for greater than one day, consider patient controlled analgesia (PCA). See Appendix J.

---

1 See Appendix A for Comprehensive Pain Assessment
2 See Appendix B for Pediatric Pain Scales
3 Consultation services that specialize in pain management: Acute Pain, Chronic Pain, Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care, PICU, and Integrative Medicine. See Appendix G for description of services.

Copyright 2021 The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Department of Clinical Effectiveness V4

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff on 05/18/2021

Page 2 of 26
Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years) (Inpatient)

Note: This consensus algorithm excludes patients who are in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), perioperative or pre-procedural settings, or are currently receiving epidural or intrathecal analgesia.

PPG = personalized pain goal

1 For additional information see the Distress Screening and Psychosocial Management algorithm
2 Consultation services that specialize in pain management: Acute Pain, Chronic Pain, Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care, PICU, and Integrative Medicine. See Appendix G for description of services.
3 Pain crisis or emergency is defined as severe pain, new onset, or exacerbation of previously stabilized pain, accompanied by significant distress or if present for > 24 hours

Consult Pediatric Specialty Service

Severe pain or pain crisis

- Severe pain and/or PPG not met

Pain crisis

 evaluations and treat pain and psychosocial distress that may be contributing to pain expression

- If significant anxiety related to pain, administer opioids prior to sedating anxiolytics

For patients not currently taking opioids:

- Administer short-acting opioids - choose from strong opioids (Appendix E)

For patients currently taking opioids:

- Consider increasing scheduled opioid dose by 50-100%. If scheduled opioid is increased, recalculate the breakthrough dose as 10-20% of the total daily dose, given every 1 to 4 hours.
- Manage opioid induced side effects as clinically indicated, (Appendix F). For patients on opioids, ensure a scheduled bowel regimen.
- Ongoing assessment is necessary for pain, distress and opioid side effects until patient stable

Note for all patients:

- Consider using appropriate adjuvants (Appendix H) and/or Complementary/Integrative therapies (Appendix C), bowel regimen (Appendix F), Patient Education (Appendix I), and psychosocial support as appropriate (Appendix G) (PCA). See Appendix J.
Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years) (Outpatient)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

Note: This consensus algorithm excludes patients who are in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), perioperative or pre-procedural settings, or are currently receiving epidural or intrathecal analgesia.

1 See Appendix A for Comprehensive Pain Assessment
2 See Appendix B for Pediatric Pain Scales
3 Opioid induced neurotoxicity (OIN) can include drowsiness, cognitive impairment, confusion, hallucinations, and myoclonic jerks (Appendix F)
4 Consultation services that specialize in pain management: Acute Pain, Chronic Pain, Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care, PICU, and Integrative Medicine. See Appendix G for description of services.
5 Pain crisis or emergency is defined as severe pain, new onset, or exacerbation of previously stabilized pain, accompanied by significant distress or if present for > 24 hours

- Consider consulting Child Life and other Complementary/Integrative therapies (Appendix C)

- For patients not currently taking opioids:
  - Consider non-opioids (Appendix D) or if contraindicated, consider weak opioids (Appendix E), as needed for pain

- For patients currently taking opioids:
  - Continue current analgesic regimen or consider dose changes as clinically indicated
  - If patient is currently taking a long-acting opioid, consider adding a short-acting opioid for breakthrough pain. The breakthrough dose is calculated as 10-20% of the total daily dose, given every 1 to 4 hours.
  - Manage opioid induced side-effects as clinically indicated (Appendix F). For patients on opioids, ensure a scheduled bowel regimen.

- Consider consulting Child Life and other Complementary/Integrative therapies (Appendix C)

- For patients not currently taking opioids:
  - Administer short-acting opioids: choose from weak or strong opioids (Appendix E)

- For patients currently taking opioids:
  - Consider increasing scheduled opioid dose by 30-50%. If scheduled opioid is increased, recalculate the breakthrough dose as 10-20% of the total daily dose, given every 1 to 4 hours.
  - Manage opioid induced side effects as clinically indicated (Appendix F). For patients on opioids, ensure a scheduled bowel regimen.
  - If opioid induced neurotoxicity (OIN), consider hospitalization and evaluation in the Pediatric Acute Care Cancer Center, opioid rotation (Appendix K), and/or specialty consultation
  - Consider specialty consult

Assess for pain1 at each visit or interaction using appropriate available pain scale2

If opioid rotation, consider using appropriate adjuvants

Note for all patients:
- Consider using appropriate adjuvants (Appendix H) and/or Complementary/Integrative therapies (Appendix C), bowel regimen (Appendix F), Patient Education (Appendix I), and psychosocial support as appropriate (Appendix G)
- If frequent pm doses required and pain anticipated for greater than one day, consider patient controlled analgesia (PCA). See Appendix J

Pain adequately controlled?

Yes

No

Consider specialty consultation3 for uncontrolled pain

Reassess pain, PPG, current score using appropriate available pain scale, and opioid side effects at subsequent visit or interaction

Yes

No

Pain adequately controlled?
Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

Note: This consensus algorithm excludes patients who are in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), perioperative or pre-procedural settings, or are currently receiving epidural or intrathecal analgesia.

Quick Pediatric Reference Guide

- **Opioid naïve**: Includes patients who are not chronically receiving opioid analgesic on a daily basis and therefore have not developed significant tolerance.
- **Opioid tolerant**: Patients who are chronically receiving opioid analgesics on a daily basis. The FDA identifies this group as “receiving at least 60 mg of morphine daily, at least 30 mg of oral oxycodone daily, or at least 8 mg of oral hydromorphone daily or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid for a week or longer” for adult patients. The pharmaceutical industry’s definition of opioid tolerant for pediatric patients is generally a patient receiving the equivalent of 1 mg/kg per day of oral morphine for 1 week or longer.
- **Incomplete cross-tolerance**: Reduce dose of new opioid by 30 to 50% when switching from one opioid to another to account for tolerance to a currently administered opioid that does not extend completely to other opioids. Consequently, this phenomenon tends to lower the required dose of the new opioid.
- **Dose titration**: Adjusting the dose of an opioid should be individualized for each patient. Refer to Pages 2 to 4 of this algorithm for titration recommendations.
- **Dosing frequency**: For long-acting opioids, dosing frequency is typically every 12 hours to 24 hours depending on the agent. Refer to Appendix E for Opioid Dose Considerations.
- **Breakthrough pain**: Doses of short-acting opioids for breakthrough pain should be 10 to 20% of the total daily dose given every 1 to 4 hours as needed. Breakthrough opioids can be given as frequently as every 1 hour for oral doses or every 15 minutes if IV (assuming normal renal/hepatic function).
- **Organ dysfunction**: Use additional caution when converting opioids in patients with hepatic, renal, or pulmonary dysfunction. Morphine, hydromorphone, and oxycodone should be used with caution in patients with decreased renal function.
- **Opioids NOT recommended for cancer pain**: Meperidine and mixed agonist-antagonists (pentazocine, nalbuphine, butorphanol, dexcine) should be avoided.
- **Withdrawal symptoms**: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anxiety, and shivering are common symptoms of opioid withdrawal. A gradual taper is recommended when discontinuing opioids.
- **Overdose**: Symptoms may include respiratory depression, constricted pupils, and decreased responsiveness. Naloxone is used to reverse the effects of an opioid. To administer, dilute 0.4 mg/mL (1 mL) ampule into 9 mL of normal saline for total volume of 10 mL to achieve a 0.04 mg/mL concentration. Give 0.04 mg (1 mL) via slow IV push every 30 to 60 seconds until symptom improvement. **DO NOT** administer undiluted naloxone due to risk of precipitating rapid withdrawal, which may cause severe pain or seizures.
- **Chemotherapy-related, intermittent pain**: This type of pain may be managed with acetaminophen or oxycodone. See Appendix E for Opioid Dose Considerations, or refer to a drug information reference for additional information.
- **Constipation** is a common side effect with opioid use. Consider starting a bowel regimen in all patients taking opioids. Refer to Appendix F.
- **Duration of drug effect**: Any residual drug in the patient’s system must be accounted for and an assessment of any residual effects from discontinued long-acting opioids must be made before any new opioid is started. For example, fentanyl will continue to be released from the skin 12 to 36 hours after transdermal patch removal.
- **The Texas Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)** is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions. It can help identify patients who may be misusing prescription opioids or other prescription medications and who may be at risk for overdose. Clinicians should review the Texas PMP prior to every opioid prescribed and at every visit in which pain is diagnosed or addressed. The program is now available through OneConnect and can also be accessed directly at https://texas.pmpaware.net/login.
### APPENDIX A: Comprehensive Pediatric Pain Assessment

The comprehensive pain assessment should include the following:

1. **Pain:**
   - a. For each site of pain, determine intensity level using the appropriate pain scales based on age and developmental level (Appendix B: Pediatric Pain Scales).
     
     Assess at rest and with activity the location, onset (acute, chronic, acute exacerbation of chronic pain), pathophysiology (somatic, visceral, neuropathic), temporal factors (continuous, intermittent, breakthrough, incidental), aggravating and alleviating factors, and etiology (e.g., tumor, non-tumor related, fracture).
   
   b. Evaluation of medical history includes: oncologic or other significant medical illnesses, medication history, relevant imaging and laboratory studies
   
   c. Physical examination
   
   d. Assess for presence of sedation and common opioid side effects (Appendix F).

2. **Function:**
   - a. Evaluate patient’s ability to ambulate, perform activities of daily living (ADL), range of motion (ROM), deep breathing, and coughing
   
   b. Assess restrictions related to pain
   
   c. Document patient’s functional ability

3. **Psychosocial issues:**
   - a. Evaluate patient distress, family support, psychiatric history, patient/family knowledge and beliefs surrounding pain and its management, and risk factors for under treatment of pain including underreporting, prior treatment of pain and response to other pain medications, concerns about addiction to pain medications or side effects, extremes of age, gender, cultural barriers, communication barriers, and prior history of drug abuse
   
   b. Document patient’s assessment of psychological distress

4. **Personal Pain Goal (PPG):**
   - a. Determine the verbal or written goal stated by the patient describing the desired level/intensity of pain that will allow the patient to achieve comfort in physical, functional, and psychosocial domains

**In addition to Comprehensive Pain Assessment, rule out or treat pain related to oncologic emergencies**

1. Pain related to an oncologic emergency requires assessment and treatment (e.g., surgery, corticosteroids, radiation therapy, antibiotics) along with an emergent consultation.

Oncologic emergencies include:

- Bowel obstruction/perforation
- Leptomeningeal metastasis
- Brain metastasis
- Fracture or impending fracture of weight-bearing bone
- Epidural metastasis/spinal cord compression
- Pain related to infection

---

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.
APPENDIX B: Pediatric Pain Scales

Riley Infant Pain Scale Assessment Tool (RIPS) (For age 0 to 3 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facial</td>
<td>Neutral expression or smiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frowning or grimacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clenched teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-cry expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Movement</td>
<td>Calm, relaxed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restless or fidgeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate agitation or moderate mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thrashing, flailing, incessant agitation or strong voluntary immobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>Sleeping quietly with easy respiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restless while asleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermittent sleeping (sleep/awake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unable to sleep or sleeping for prolonged periods of time interrupted by jerky movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal/vocal</td>
<td>No cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whimpering, complaining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pain-associated crying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Screaming, high-pitched cry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolability</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easy to console</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not easy to console</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inconsolable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to Movement/Touch</td>
<td>Moves easily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wincers when touched or moved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cries out when moved or touched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High-pitched cry or scream when touched or moved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Assign a score for each behavior and add them for a total score. Total scores range from 0 to 18, with a higher score indicating a higher level of pain.

Wong-Baker FACES® Pain Rating Scale

(For age 3 to 18 years or as clinically appropriate)

Numeric Pain Rating Scale (For age ≥ 9 years)

0-10 numeric rating scale (NRS)
- No pain = 0
- Mild pain = 1-3
- Moderate pain = 4-6
- Severe pain = 7-10
Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

APPENDIX C: Complementary and Integrative Therapy

Integrative Medicine Program/Integrative Medicine Center
Integrative Medicine refers to an evidence-informed approach to bringing these complementary approaches into conventional medical care. Complementary approaches may be provided safely by individuals with proper training. Such approaches can provide support to patients and their caregivers. Benefits can include relief for symptoms such as: pain, nausea, and anxiety. Complementary approaches may also offer opportunities for increased socialization, motivation, and improving coping skills.

- Services provided include the risks and benefits of using herbs and supplements, acupuncture, oncology massage, meditation, music therapy, nutrition, exercise, and health psychology
- Outpatient or inpatient referral to the Integrative Medicine Center triggers a physician consultation to evaluate a patient’s integrative care needs, develop an integrative care plan, and help with care coordination
- Inside Integrative Medicine is a monthly newsletter with the latest news on complementary therapies, research and a monthly activities/group class calendar for the Integrative Medicine Center. Group classes are available at no cost to patients and caregivers.

Child Life, Adolescent and Young Adult Life Program
The Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Life Program assists in reducing the impact of cancer, painful procedures and hospital stays through relationship building, diagnosis education, procedural support, special events and activities, and opportunities for emotional expression. Services can be accessed via consults or informal referrals. The On-Call calendar denotes provider and contact information if the unit specialist is not readily available.

- Nicole Rosburg, M.S., CCLS – Manager (713) 745-0445 office Email: nmrosburg@mdanderson.org

Pediatric Compassionate High Alert Team
The Pediatric Compassionate High Alert Team (PCHAT) is a specialized interdisciplinary team that addresses aberrant opioid-related behavior in cancer patients. The team can be accessed by consulting Palliative/Supportive Care or Integrative Medicine.

Arts in Medicine Program
The Arts in Medicine program connects pediatric patients and their families to visual arts, music, theater, and dance through community collaborations, large-scale projects, and one-on-one experiences. Music Therapy services are provided to pediatric patients which can help reduce stress and anxiety, build confidence, decrease pain and provide patients with positive social experiences. Services are rendered via an informal referral process for patients and families.

- Zachary E. Gresham, MA, M.Ed. - Program Manager (713) 792-5192 office Email: zegresham@mdanderson.org

Pediatric School
Education program offers art class daily, one day utilizing a pottery wheel, Google expeditions, cooking classes, and writers in the schools.

- Daniel Smith, M.Ed. - Manager (713) 792-7681 office Email: dlsmith4@mdanderson.org

Pediatric Clinical Psychology Services
Pediatric clinical psychology services are initiated by consultation. The Pediatric On-Call Schedule denotes provider and contact information. Psychological interventions can be provided to patients who are struggling through acute or chronic pain.
APPENDIX D: Non-opioids for Pediatric Pain Management

CAUTION: All of these agents are antipyretic and may mask fever; use caution in patients receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may have antiplatelet effects that can increase the risk of bleeding in patients who are thrombocytopenic or receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy and likely to become thrombocytopenic. Non-acetylated salicylates (e.g., salsalate, choline magnesium salicylate) and the COX-2 selected NSAID (celecoxib) may have less effects on platelets, but should still be used with caution in a patient receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy.

Non-opioids include: acetaminophen and NSAIDs. Non-opioids may be used alone or in combination with opioids for pain management. NSAIDs are useful adjuvant analgesics for bone pain.

Recommended Starting Doses: The choice of non-opioid must depend on the individual risk/benefit balance for each patient. The mechanism of action and side effect profile of each option is different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recommended Starting Dose</th>
<th>Maximum Daily Dose</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acetaminophen</td>
<td>10 – 15 mg/kg (max 1,000 mg) PO every 4-6 hours</td>
<td>Age &lt; 12 years: 5 doses (75 mg/kg) per day Age ≥ 12 years: 4,000 mg²</td>
<td>Available PO, IV or per rectum². At higher doses, can cause fatal hepatotoxicity and renal damage. Avoid use in hepatic dysfunction. Does not have anti-inflammatory effect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.5 mg/kg (max 650 mg) IV every 4 hours or 15 mg/kg (max 1,000 mg) IV every 6 hours</td>
<td>4,000 mg²</td>
<td>IV acetaminophen is formulary restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibuprofen</td>
<td>4 – 10 mg/kg (max 800 mg) PO every 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Age &lt; 12 years: 40 mg/kg Age ≥ 12 years: 3,200 mg</td>
<td>Inhibits platelet aggregation and can cause gastrointestinal side effects or renal failure. Use with caution in patients at high risk³.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celecoxib</td>
<td>10 to 25 kg: 50 mg twice daily Greater than 25 kg: 100 mg twice daily</td>
<td>400 mg</td>
<td>May not affect platelet aggregation. Can cause renal insufficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketorolac</td>
<td>Single-dose treatment: 0.5 mg/kg (max 15 mg) IV once Multiple-dose treatment: 0.5 mg/kg (max 30 mg) IV every 6 hours</td>
<td>120 mg Max 5 days</td>
<td>Evaluate after 8 doses and limit treatment to 5 days. Use is contraindicated in patients with advanced renal impairment. Use with caution in patients with advanced renal impairment due to volume depletion. Inhibits platelet aggregation; can cause gastrointestinal side effects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The following medications are not approved in children: aspirin and naproxen
² Manufacturers of over-the-counter acetaminophen recommend no more than 3,000 mg daily
³ Rectal route is contraindicated in neutropenic patients
⁴ Patients at high risk of serious gastrointestinal side effects or renal damage from NSAIDs include: smokers, previous history of peptic ulcer, currently receiving corticosteroids, anticoagulants, or presence of existing renal disease, cardiac or liver impairment
## Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

### APPENDIX E: Pediatric Opioid Dose Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opioid</th>
<th>Initial Short-Acting Dose in an Opioid Naïve Patient</th>
<th>Onset (minutes)</th>
<th>Peak Effect (hours)</th>
<th>Duration (hours)</th>
<th>Initial Scheduled Dosing in Opioid Naïve Patients</th>
<th>Available Oral Dose Formulations</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morphine</strong></td>
<td>PO</td>
<td>0.2 – 0.5 mg/kg, typically 0.3 mg/kg (max 5-15 mg)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.5 – 1</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>Short-acting: 15, 30 mg tablets; 10 mg/5 mL, 20 mg/5 mL, 20 mg/mL liquid</td>
<td>Available as tablet or liquid preparation. Short-acting preparations can be given via PEG tube. Avoid use in renal dysfunction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IV/SC</td>
<td>0.05 – 1 mg/kg (max 2-3 mg)</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Long-acting: 15, 30, 60, 100 mg tablets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oxycodone</strong></td>
<td>PO</td>
<td>0.1 – 0.2 mg/kg, typically 0.1 mg/kg (max 5-10 mg)</td>
<td>10 – 15</td>
<td>0.5 – 1</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>Short-acting: every 4 hours; Long-acting: every 12 hours</td>
<td>Available alone or in combination with acetaminophen*(e.g., oxycodone 5 mg with acetaminophen 325 mg in Percocet®). Use with caution in renal dysfunction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hydromorphone</strong></td>
<td>PO</td>
<td>0.03 – 0.06 mg/kg, typically 0.05 mg/kg (max 1-3 mg)</td>
<td>15 – 30</td>
<td>0.5 – 1</td>
<td>3 – 5</td>
<td>Short-acting: 2, 4, 8 mg tablets; 1 mg/mL liquid Long-acting: 8, 12, 16, 32 mg tablets</td>
<td>Use with caution in renal dysfunction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IV/SC</td>
<td>0.01 – 0.015 mg/kg (max 0.5-1.5 mg)</td>
<td>15 – 30</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4 – 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The following drugs are not approved in children: tapentadol and oxymorphone

2 All forms of acetaminophen (combination and individual) must be considered when determining total daily dosing. Manufacturers of over-the-counter acetaminophen recommend no more than 3,000 mg daily dosing.
# APPENDIX F: Pediatric Opioid Side Effects – Prevention and Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side Effect</th>
<th>Prevention</th>
<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Sedation**                       | - Discontinue other sedating medications if appropriate  
- Educate all patients receiving opioids that drowsiness may occur for a few days following initiation or increase in opioid regimen | - Consider opioid rotation (see Appendix K) or dose reduction of opioid if sedation persists  
- Consider psychostimulant:  
  1. Methylphenidate  
  2. 5 – 5 mg PO once or twice daily  
  (last dose no later than 4 pm to avoid insomnia). Suggested time 8 am and 12 noon daily  
  or  
  2. Modafinil 100 mg once or twice daily. Consider as second line for children age > 6 years. |
| **Opioid Induced Neurotoxicity**   | Risk factors:  
- High opioid dose  
- Dehydration  
- Renal failure  
- Preexisting borderline cognition and/or delirium  
- Use of other psychoactive drugs  
Eliminate nonessential CNS activating or depressing drugs (e.g., benzodiazepines) | - Consider reversible causes such as metabolic disorders, liver or renal dysfunction, dehydration, hypercalcemia, organic brain disease; treat as appropriate.  
- Consider one or more of the following:  
  1. Opioid rotation (see Appendix K)  
  2. Opioid dose reduction or discontinuation  
  3. Discontinue other offending drugs (benzodiazepines)  
  4. Hydration  
  5. Refer to Assessment and Management of Delirium in Pediatric Patients algorithm  
- Avoid using naloxone even if delirium is thought to be due to opioid use |
| **Respiratory depression**         | - Monitor sedation and respiratory status (respiratory rate and oxygen saturation) during the first 24 hours in opioid naïve patients  
- Titrate opioids cautiously  
- Consider dose reduction or opioid rotation if patient has excessive sedation | - Call primary team, HOLD opioids, and provide supplemental oxygen  
- If patient minimally responsive or unresponsive and respiratory rate ≤ 6 bpm, administer naloxone. Recommended dose: Naloxone 0.4 mg diluted in 9 mL saline, 1 mL IV push, repeat 1-2 minutes until patient more awake and respiratory status improves.  
(Half life of naloxone is short and patient may need naloxone infusion for long acting opioids.  
If no change with naloxone, rule out other causes for the respiratory depression.)  
- If patient is actively dying, DNR (do not resuscitate) and receiving comfort care, naloxone administration may not be appropriate |

---

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.
## APPENDIX F: Pediatric Opioid Side Effects – Prevention and Management - continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side Effect</th>
<th>Prevention</th>
<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nausea, Vomiting</td>
<td>● Titrate opioid dose slowly and steadily</td>
<td>1. Investigate for other causes of nausea (e.g., constipation, bowel obstruction, chemotherapy or other medication) and treat per guidelines. Initiate scheduled antiemetics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Provide antiemetics available with opioid prescription</td>
<td>2. Add or increase non-opioid or adjuvant medications for additional pain relief so opioid dose can be reduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Ondanestron 0.15 mg/kg (maximum 8 mg) PO every 8 hours as needed</td>
<td>3. If analgesia is satisfactory, reduce opioid dose by 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● If high risk of nausea, consider scheduled antiemetics for 5 days and then adjust as needed</td>
<td>4. Consider opioid rotation if nausea remains refractory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constipation</td>
<td>Unless alterations in bowel patterns such as bowel obstruction or diarrhea exist, all patients receiving opioids should be started on laxative bowel regimen and receive education for bowel management</td>
<td>1. Assess potential causes of constipation (such as recent opioid dose increase, use of other constipating medications, new bowel obstruction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Polyethylene glycol (Miralax®) 0.7 – 1.5 g/kg (maximum 17 g/dose) in 4-8 ounce beverage daily</td>
<td>2. Continue or initiate polyethylene glycol (Miralax®) and add one or both of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Ensure adequate fluids, dietary fiber and exercise if feasible</td>
<td>● Senna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Prune juice followed by warm beverage may be considered</td>
<td>- Age 2 to &lt; 6 years: 4.3 mg nightly (maximum 8.6 mg twice daily)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Age 6 to 12 years: 8.6 mg nightly (maximum 17.2 mg twice daily)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Age ≥ 12 years: 17.2 mg nightly (maximum 34.4 mg twice daily)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Milk of Magnesia oral concentrate (1.200 mg/5 mL) 15 – 30 mL PO once or twice daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● If NPO, metoclopamid 0.1 – 0.2 mg/kg IV or SC every 6 hours (maximum 5 mg for age ≤ 15 years; 10 mg for age &gt; 15 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. If no response to above, perform digital rectal exam (DRE) to rule out low impaction (do not perform if neutropenic, thrombocytopenic, or post-operative bowel surgery. Continue above steps and)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● If impacted: Disimpact manually if stool is soft. If not, soften with mineral oil fleet enema before disimpaction. Follow up with milk of molasses enemas until clear with no formed stools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Consider use of short-acting analgesics before disimpaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● If not impacted on rectal examination, patient may still have higher level impaction. Consider abdominal imaging and/or administer milk of molasses enema along with magnesium citrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Age 2 to 6 years: 60 – 90 mL once or in divided doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Age 6 to 12 years: 90 – 210 mL once or in divided doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Age ≥ 12 years: 240 mL once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Methylenealtrexone may be given to patients who meet the following criteria:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Patient experiencing opioid-induced constipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Patient has not demonstrated an adequate response to other laxative therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Patient does not have a known or suspected mechanical gastrointestinal obstruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX G: Pediatric Specialty Services Consultation Guidelines

MD Anderson offers several coordinated pain specialty core services, consisting of Acute Pain, Chronic Pain, Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), and Integrative Medicine. Guidelines for consultation to these services include the following:

A. For a patient whose pain remains uncontrolled for > 24 hours, consider a consult to one of the specialty core services.
   - Included in this group are:
     - Substance use disorders - except tobacco (current or past history)
     - Developmental disabilities
     - Emotional, behavioral, and mental disorders
     - Vision and hearing impairments and disabilities
     - Cognitive disorders
     - Refractory symptoms and dying patient
     - Communicative disorders

B. For postoperative and perioperative pain: Acute Pain, Integrative Medicine, and Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care

C. For acute pain in inpatients: Chronic Pain in cases of pre-existing chronic pain and Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care

D. For patients with chronic pain and no evidence of active cancer: Chronic Pain, Integrative Medicine, and Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care

E. For patients with evidence of active cancer with pain as the sole or predominant symptom: Chronic Pain or Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care Service; consider Integrative Medicine

F. For patients with evidence of active cancer and pain accompanied by multiple symptoms: Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care; consider Integrative Medicine

G. For patients with pain in the context of cancer in the palliative stage or end of life: Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care; consider Integrative Medicine

H. For patients who need continuous infusions of medications when other measures previously listed have failed and pain is therefore intractable: PICU and Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care

I. For patients with suspected opioid addiction, request a consult to one of the specialty core services for a referral to a treatment program. See Appendix M for Treatment Services.

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)
## APPENDIX H: Adjuvant “Co-analgesics” for Pediatric Neuropathic Pain Syndromes and Chronic Pain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Class and Uses</th>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Recommended Starting Dose</th>
<th>Maximum Daily Dose</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Anticonvulsants** (various NP types) | Gabapentin | **Day 1:** 5 mg/kg (max 300 mg) PO at bedtime  
**Day 2:** 5 mg/kg (max 300 mg) PO twice a day  
May escalate to three times daily after one week based on tolerability and response | Dose may be further titrated to a maximum of 3,600 mg/day or 35 mg/kg/day | Used in PHN and NP. May cause drowsiness, dizziness, and peripheral edema. Dose adjust for renal impairment. |
| Topiramate | 6-12 years (weight ≥ 20 kg):  
15 mg PO daily for 7 days, then 15 mg PO twice a day  
Age ≥ 12 years: 25 mg PO at bedtime for 7 days, then 25 mg PO twice a day and titrate up to 50 mg PO twice a day | 200 mg | Used in NP. May cause acidosis, drowsiness, dizziness, and nausea. Dose adjust for renal and/or hepatic impairment. |
| **Tricyclic Antidepressants** (TCA) (various NP types) | Amitriptyline | 0.1 mg/kg PO at bedtime; titrate as tolerated over 3 weeks to 0.5 – 2 mg/kg at bedtime | 25 mg | Consider for continuous and shooting neuropathic pain. Caution use in frail patients, those with glaucoma or arrhythmias. May cause sedation, arrhythmias, dry mouth, orthostasis, and urinary retention. Consider duloxetine for NP or DN. Caution use in patients with seizures; avoid MAOIs, other SSRIs or SNRIs due to potential for serotonin syndrome. Duloxetine may increase the risk of bleeding events. Concomitant use of aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, warfarin, and other anticoagulants may add to this risk. Taper slowly. |

**Notes:**
- DN = diabetic neuropathy
- FM = fibromyalgia
- MAOI = monoamine oxidase inhibitors
- NP = neuropathic pain
- PHN = post herpetic neuralgia
- SNRIs = serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors
- SSRIs = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors
- TCAs = tricyclic antidepressants
- TGN = trigeminal neuralgia

1. The following medications are not approved in children: pregabalin, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, tiagabine, nortriptyline, desipramine, duloxetine, venlafaxine and tizanidine.
### APPENDIX H: Adjuvant “Co-analgesics” commonly used for Pediatric Neuropathic Pain Syndromes and Chronic Pain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Class and Uses</th>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Recommended Starting Dose</th>
<th>Maximum Daily Dose</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Muscle Relaxants** (muscle pain, spasm) | Baclofen<sup>2</sup> | Age < 2 years: 2.5 – 5 mg PO every 8 hours; titrate dose every 3 days to maximum daily dose  
Age 2–7 years: 7.5 – 10 mg PO every 8 hours; titrate dose every 3 days in increments of 5 – 15 mg/day to maximum daily dose  
Age ≥ 8 years: 10 – 15 mg PO every 8 hours; titrate dose every 3 days in increments of 5 – 15 mg/day to maximum daily dose | Age < 2 years: 40 mg  
Age 2–7 years: 60 mg  
Age ≥ 8 years: 80 mg | Caution use in patients with seizures, cardiovascular disease, glaucoma, myasthenia gravis, renal or hepatic impairment, patients on TCAs or MAOIs. May cause anticholinergic effects and significant drowsiness.  
Baclofen: may repeat course after drug free interval of 48 hours. |
|                                      | Cyclobenzaprine    | Age ≥ 15 years: 5 mg PO three times daily                       | 30 mg             |                                                                         |
|                                      | Metaxalone         | Age > 12 years: 400 mg PO three times daily                    | 3,200 mg          |                                                                         |
|                                      | Methocarbamol      | Age ≥ 16 years: 500 mg PO four times daily  
10 mg/kg IV every 8 hours | 3,000 mg IV for 3 days maximum if PO not possible |                                                                         |
| **Corticosteroids** (inflammation, nerve compression) | Dexamethasone       | 0.25 mg/kg IV or PO every 6 hours  
Standard dose 4 – 16 mg/day | 16 mg             | May cause impaired healing, infection, thrush, hyperglycemia, weight gain, myopathy, stomach upset, psychosis, emotional instability. |
| **Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI)** | Duloxetine<sup>3</sup> | Age ≥ 7 years: 30 mg at bedtime; titrate dose every 1 – 2 weeks to maximum daily dose of 60 mg twice daily | 120 mg            | Taper dose down slowly when no longer needed to avoid discontinuation syndrome. Antidepressants increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults (ages 18 – 24 years) with major depressive disorder and other psychiatric disorders. Consider risk prior to prescribing. May increase risk for bleeding through platelet inhibition. Monitor for orthostatic hypotension. |

MAOI = monoamine oxidase inhibitors  
TCAs = tricyclic antidepressants  
<sup>1</sup>The following medications are not approved in children: pregabalin, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, tiagabine, nortriptyline, desipramine, duloxetine, venlafaxine and tizanidine  
<sup>2</sup>Intrathecal formulation not on MD Anderson formulary  
<sup>3</sup>Approved by the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff on 05/18/2021
APPENDIX I: Pain Management Education for Pediatric Patients and Family Prior to Discharge

Management of cancer pain is an integral component of cancer care. Patient education in the following areas should be provided to patients.

1. General Pain Education: Specific teaching information is available in Patient Education-On Line. Education should include the following:
   A. Relief of pain is important and there is no benefit to suffering with pain
   B. Expect optimal treatment for pain and side effects
   C. Pain can usually be well controlled with oral medications. There are many options available to control pain.
   D. Communication with the healthcare team is critical to pain management and avoiding serious side effects. Communication should include:
      ● Patient/Family understanding about how to rate their pain type, severity/intensity, and personalized pain goals (PPG). An age specific, physiologic condition appropriate pain scale should be provided with explanation.
      ● Potential problems or side effects of pain medications
      ● Concerns about difficulty in obtaining medications (such as cost or inadequate quantity of tablets)

2. Specific information related to Opioid Use (such as morphine and related medications). Specific teaching information is available in Patient Education-On Line.
   A. Morphine and morphine-like medications are often used to relieve pain
   B. When opioids are used to treat cancer pain, addiction is rarely a problem
   C. Taking opioids now will not alter later effectiveness
   D. Discuss potential side effects of opioids, and their prevention and management
   E. Prevention of constipation will be needed by most patients
   F. Opioids are controlled substances that need to be properly safeguarded in the home
   G. Opioids must be used with caution, and should not be mixed with alcohol or illicit substances

Continued on next page
APPENDIX I: Pain Management Education for Pediatric Patients and Family Prior to Discharge - continued

3. Pain Education Discharge/Resource Checklist:

A. A written plan for pain medications, listing all medications to be used with dosage and frequency. Provide patient with print out of updated medication reconciliation.

B. Written information on who to call (provider, service, phone number) for pain issues and plan for follow up care. Instruct patient/caregiver to call if:
   - Problems in obtaining prescriptions or taking the medication
   - New pain, change in pain, or pain not relieved with medication
   - Nausea and vomiting that prevents eating for 1 day
   - No bowel movements for 3 days
   - Difficulty arousing the patient from sleep easily during daytime
   - Confusion

C. MD Anderson has multiple resources and programs related to pain management
   - For a list of Support Programs and services provided, please refer to Support Programs
   - For further information and a complete list of resources, please refer to Welcome to the University of Texas MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital
   - The Law and Levit Learning Center(s) provide the latest information about health, cancer, and cancer prevention. Available resources include:
     - Journals, consumer health magazines and newsletters
     - Online journals, electronic books and databases
     - Free booklets
     - Topic-specific binders
     - Books, audios and videos
     - DVDs and videotapes

Law Learning Center 713-745-8063
Levit Learning Center 713-563-8010

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.
APPENDIX J: Pediatric Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)

Suggested initial PCA settings: All opioid doses must be individualized

1. Opioid naïve patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opioid</th>
<th>Demand (PCA) Dose (Dose Range)</th>
<th>Lock-out Interval (Minutes)</th>
<th>1-hour Dose Limit (Optional)</th>
<th>Continuous Dose (Basal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morphine (milligrams)</td>
<td>0.01 – 0.03 mg/kg</td>
<td>6-8 minutes</td>
<td>5 doses per hour</td>
<td>0 – 0.03 mg/kg/hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydromorphone (milligrams)</td>
<td>0.003 – 0.004 mg/kg</td>
<td>6-8 minutes</td>
<td>5 doses per hour</td>
<td>0 – 0.004 mg/kg/hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentanyl (micrograms)</td>
<td>0.5 – 1 mcg/kg</td>
<td>6-8 minutes</td>
<td>5 doses per hour</td>
<td>0 – 0.5 mcg/kg/hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Patient should be alert and demonstrate ability to administer demand dose for pain. If concerns about cognitive failure or significant anxiety, consider Specialty Consultation: Acute Pain, Chronic Pain, Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care, PICU, and Integrative Medicine (Appendix G for description of services).
b. Carefully consider adding continuous (basal) dose after 12-24 hours if using frequent demand doses or if pain not controlled. Suggested basal dose is 30-50% of average hourly dose. Example: The 12 hour total morphine demand dose is 20 mg, calculate continuous dose as 
   \[ \frac{20}{12} = 1.7 \text{ mg/hour} \text{ then } 1.7 \times 0.3 (30\%) = 0.5 \text{ mg/hour basal rate.} \]
c. Nurse bolus as needed for pain; nurse bolus interval (hours) per physician discretion

2. Opioid tolerant patients (currently receiving opioid therapy)

PCA orders should take into account the patient’s current opioid regimen, clinical situation (severity and etiology of the pain, side effects from opioids, baseline drowsiness, need for opioid rotation). If there are significant side effects, drowsiness, confusion, respiratory or central nervous system concerns, it is recommended to call for Specialty Consultation: Acute Pain, Chronic Pain, Pediatric Palliative/Supportive Care (see Appendix G for description of services) for PCA ordering.

a. Calculate total dose of opioid (scheduled and breakthrough doses) used in the previous 24 hour period.
b. Use equianalgesic opioid dose conversion table (Appendix K) to calculate dose of IV opioid being considered for PCA. Decrease dose by 30-50% to adjust for lack of complete cross tolerance to obtain new IV dose.
c. Divide new IV dose (from above step) by 24 hours, to obtain hourly (basal) dose.
d. Calculate demand (PCA) dose as 10-20% of new IV opioid dose to use as needed every hour for breakthrough pain.
APPENDIX K: Equianalgesic Opioid Dose Conversion

Note: The equianalgesic doses (oral and parenteral) can be affected by interpatient variability, type of pain (for example, acute versus chronic), chronic administration, and tolerance.

The following table should serve as a guide when switching from one opioid to another. It is recommended to reduce the dose of the new opioid by 30 to 50% to account for incomplete cross tolerance, and to periodically monitor for efficacy and adverse reactions and the dose adjusted accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opioid</th>
<th>Oral Dose (PO)</th>
<th>Parenteral Dose (IV/SC)</th>
<th>Conversion Factor: Parenteral to Oral Opioid</th>
<th>Conversion Factor: Oral Opioid to Oral Morphine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morphine</td>
<td>30 mg</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxycodone</td>
<td>20 mg</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocodone</td>
<td>30 mg</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxymorphone</td>
<td>10 mg</td>
<td>1 mg</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydromorphone</td>
<td>7.5 mg</td>
<td>1.5 mg</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentanyl²</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>120 mcg</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Should be managed by clinicians experienced in pain management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methadone and buprenorphine should only be initiated and managed by clinicians experienced in pain management. Consider consultation to pain specialists if needed.

1 This Equianalgesic Opioid Dose Conversion chart is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations (https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/resources/data.html)

2 See Appendix L for transdermal fentanyl conversion

Continued on next page
Steps for Opioid Rotation:
1. Stop current opioid regimen.
2. Calculate total dose of current opioid (scheduled and breakthrough doses) used in the previous 24 hour period.
3. Calculate the dose of the new opioid using the equianalgesic dose conversion table (from previous page) and conversion equation (below).

\[
\frac{\text{Equianalgesic dose per route of CURRENT opioid}}{24 \text{ hour dose per route of CURRENT opioid}} = \frac{\text{Equianalgesic dose per route of NEW opioid}}{24 \text{ hour dose per route of NEW opioid}}
\]

4. Calculate for incomplete cross-tolerance between opioids. Decrease the target dose from step 3 by 30-50% to obtain the new opioid dose.
5. Calculate scheduled pain dose. Divide the new opioid dose (from step 4) by number of doses to be given over 24 hours and administer as scheduled doses.
6. Calculate breakthrough pain dose as 10-20% of calculated new opioid dose to administer as needed every 1 hour.
7. Titrate new opioid regimen until adequate analgesia is achieved.

**Opioid Rotation Example:** Rotation from morphine PCA (total daily dose of 120 mg IV) to oral oxycodone.
1. Stop current opioid regimen.
2. Calculate dose of current opioid (scheduled and breakthrough doses) used in the previous 24 hours which equals 120 mg IV morphine.
3. Calculate the dose of the new opioid using the equianalgesic dose conversion table and conversion equation (below).
   a. Calculate IV morphine to PO morphine based on conversion table and conversion equation:
      \[
      \frac{10 \text{ mg IV morphine}}{120 \text{ mg IV morphine over 24 hours}} = \frac{30 \text{ mg PO morphine}}{X \text{ mg PO morphine over 24 hours}}
      \]
      \[X = \frac{360 \text{ mg PO morphine}}{30 \text{ mg PO morphine}} = 12 \times \frac{360 \text{ mg PO morphine}}{120 \text{ mg IV morphine}} = 360 \text{ mg PO morphine}
      \]
   b. Calculate PO morphine to PO oxycodone based on conversion table:
      \[
      \frac{30 \text{ mg PO morphine}}{360 \text{ mg PO morphine}} = \frac{20 \text{ mg PO oxycodone}}{X \text{ mg PO oxycodone}}
      \]
      \[X = \frac{240 \text{ mg PO oxycodone}}{30 \text{ mg PO morphine}} = \frac{240 \text{ mg PO oxycodone}}{30 \text{ mg PO morphine}} = 8 \text{ mg PO oxycodone}
      \]
4. Calculate for incomplete cross-tolerance. After a 30-50% dose reduction, the oxycodone dose calculated above should be between 120 and 168 mg per day.
5. Calculate scheduled pain dose. Extended release (ER) oxycodone is dosed every 12 hours; recommend ER oxycodone 60 mg every 12 hours (based on tablet availability).
6. Calculate breakthrough pain dose as 10-20% of 120 mg oxycodone dose and administer as needed every 1 hour.
   Immediate release (IR) oxycodone is between 12 and 24 mg per dose and may be administered every 1 to 4 hours.
   Based on tablet availability recommend IR oxycodone 10 to 20 mg every 1 to 4 hours as needed for breakthrough pain.
7. Titrate new opioid regimen until adequate analgesia is achieved.
## APPENDIX L: Fentanyl

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dosage Forms</th>
<th>Onset</th>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Doses Available per Formulary</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parenteral (IV/Subcutaneous)</td>
<td>Almost immediate</td>
<td>Several minutes</td>
<td>0.5-1 hour</td>
<td>50 mcg/mL (5 mL vial for injection) PCA syringe supplied as 2,750 mcg/55 mL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transdermal patch(^1)</td>
<td>12-24 hours</td>
<td>24-72 hours</td>
<td>48-72 hours</td>
<td>12 (delivers 12.5), 25, 50, 75, 100 mcg/hour</td>
<td>Bioavailability 90%: Do not cut patch, apply heat, or use in patients who develop fever – results in faster onset, shorter duration, and possible overdose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmucosal lozenge (Actiq(^6))</td>
<td>5-15 minutes</td>
<td>20-40 minutes</td>
<td>Related to blood level</td>
<td>200, 400, 600 mcg</td>
<td>Bioavailability: 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sublingual tablet (Abstral(^9))</td>
<td>5-15 minutes</td>
<td>30-60 minutes</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>100, 200, 300, 400, 600, 800 mcg</td>
<td>Bioavailability: 54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Drug specific characteristics:

- Fentanyl is 80 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl is not recommended for initial use in opioid naïve patients since its use may lead to fatal respiratory depression.
- Transdermal fentanyl should only be used in patients with stable opioid requirements. Due to the long systemic half-life of 17 hours, the dose may be difficult to titrate if pain is not well-controlled.
- When initiating transdermal fentanyl, patients should use short-acting opioids as needed until efficacy is obtained (peak effect 24-72 hours).
- Titrate patients on transdermal fentanyl no more frequently than every 3 days after initial dose, and then every 6 days thereafter. Initial evaluation of maximum analgesic effect should not be made before 24 hours.
- Caution use with CYP450 3A4 inhibitors, which can increase fentanyl plasma concentrations.
- May be used in patients with renal dysfunction.

\(^1\)After transdermal patch removal, continued absorption of fentanyl occurs from the skin. Delayed administration of another long-acting opioid should be considered due to persistent serum levels of fentanyl. Due to differences in bioavailability, fentanyl products are not interchangeable on a mcg to mcg basis.

Continued on next page
APPENDIX L: Fentanyl - continued

IV Fentanyl Dosing:

Morphine to IV fentanyl conversion: 1 mg of IV morphine or 3 mg of oral morphine = 10 micrograms of IV fentanyl

Example: Conversion from oral morphine ER 90 mg every 12 hours to IV fentanyl
1. 24 hour morphine dose is 90 + 90 = 180 mg
2. Decrease 180 mg by 30 % for incomplete tolerance = 126 mg
3. 1 mg of IV morphine = 3 mg oral morphine = 10 micrograms IV fentanyl, then new 24 hour morphine dose of 126 mg = 24 hour IV fentanyl dose of 420 micrograms
4. Divide 24 hour fentanyl dose calculated by 24 hours = 17.5 micrograms/hour
Thus an appropriate starting dose for IV fentanyl/hour (as basal rate in PCA) is 20 micrograms/hour.

Transdermal Fentanyl (TDF) Dosing:

**Option 1:** 2 mg oral morphine is approximately 1 mcg per hour transdermal fentanyl

Example: Total daily dose of morphine 100 mg translates to approximately 50 mcg transderal patch, to be applied every 72 hours

**Option 2:** calculate the total daily dose of morphine and then use the following table to select the appropriate patch strength

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral Morphine (mg/day)</th>
<th>Transdermal Fentanyl (mcg/hour)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional 25 mg/day</td>
<td>An additional 12 mcg/hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This table should NOT be used to convert from TDF to other therapies because this conversion to TDF is conservative. Use of this table for conversion to other analgesic therapies can overestimate the dose of the new agent.

- To convert patients to another opioid, remove the transdermal fentanyl patch and titrate the dose of the new analgesic based upon the patient’s report of pain until adequate analgesia has been attained. Upon system removal, 17 hours or more are required for a 50% decrease in serum fentanyl concentrations.
- Must prescribe short-acting opioid for breakthrough pain.
Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

APPENDIX M: Treatment Services

Note: Most treatment facilities require insurance coverage or sufficient money to cover treatment. If patient has insurance, call the customer service number to find a facility in-network to avoid a large out-of-pocket debt.

- Treatment Facilities for Alcohol and Drug Abuse
  Houston, Texas
  1-(800) 304-2219

- Bay Area Recovery Center
  1807 FM 517
  East Dickinson, Texas 77539
  (713) 705-3457

- The Council on Alcohol and Drugs
  Houston, Texas
  www.councilonrecovery.org

- Clearinghouse for treatment, education, and recovery groups, etc.
  303 Jackson Hill St.
  Houston, Texas 77007
  (713) 914-0556, (281) 866-7557

- UT Health Houston Behavioral and Biomedical Science Building
  941 East Rd. First floor
  Houston, Texas 77054
  (713) 500-3784

- Hazelden Betty Ford
  Multiple locations around the country
  1-866-831-5700

- The Treehouse
  Scurry, Texas (South of Dallas)
  1-(888) 683-1406

- St. Joseph Hospital
  1401 St. Joseph Parkway
  Houston, Texas 77002
  (713) 575-1000; 1-(800) 466-0792

- West Oaks Hospital (Dr. George Santos)
  https://westoakshospital.com/programs-services/substance-abuse/
  6500 Hornwood
  Houston, Texas 77074

- UT Health Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC)
  2800 South MacGregor Way
  Houston, TX 77021
  (713) 741-5000

- SAMHSA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
  Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator: https://www.samhsa.gov/find-treatment
  Enter patient’s address and zip code on website
  1-(800) 622 4357

- The Menninger Clinic
  12301 S. Main St.
  Houston, Texas 77035-6207
  (713) 275-5000

- Narcotics Anonymous
  www.na.org
  Houston area Narcotics Anonymous
  www.hascona.org
  (713) 661-4200
Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

SUGGESTED READINGS


Continued on next page
SUGGESTED READINGS - continued


Cancer Pain – Pediatric (Age ≤ 18 Years)

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson’s specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient’s care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

This practice consensus statement is based on majority opinion of the Pediatric Pain experts at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for the patient population. These experts included:

Thuy-Van Do, RPH (Pharmacy)
Larry Driver, MD (Pain Medicine)
Olga N. Fleckenstein*
Suzanne Gettys, PharmD (Pharmacy Clinical Programs)
Gabriel Lopez, MD (Integrative Medicine Program)
Kevin Madden, MD (Palliative Care)†
Rodrigo Mejia, MD (Pediatrics)†
Maria E. Mireles, PharmD (Pharmacy Clinical Programs)
Karen Moody, MD (Pediatrics)
Kristy Nguyen, PharmD (Pharmacy Clinical Programs)
Pascal Owusu-Agyemang, MD (Anesthesiology & PeriOperative Medicine)
Keyuri Popat, MD (Anesthesiology & PeriOperative Medicine)
Beatriz Rozo, RN, CPNP, MS (Pediatrics)
Mary Lou Warren, DNP, APRN, CNS-CC*
Acsa Zavala, MD (Anesthesiology & PeriOperative Medicine)

Evidence regarding specific clinical outcomes associated with the use of this or similar pain algorithms applied in comprehensive cancer centers is sparse. Other algorithms or approaches may produce similar or better outcomes.

†Core Development Team
*Clinical Effectiveness Development Team