



# Oral Morphine Solution: Information for the Caregivers

## READ ALL OF THIS LEAFLET CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU START THE PATIENT ON THIS MEDICINE

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask the doctor or pharmacist
- This medicine has been prescribed for this particular patient. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as your patients'
- If any of the side effects gets troublesome or serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

### In this leaflet:

1. What Oral Morphine Solution is and what it is used for
2. What information should be on a genuine morphine Prescription
3. What to check for before you give Oral Morphine Solution
4. How to take Oral Morphine Solution
5. Possible side effects
6. How to store Oral Morphine Solution
7. Cautions

## 1 WHAT ORAL MORPHINE SOLUTION IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Oral Morphine solution is a strong pain killer that is used and reserved only for moderate to severe pain management. The morphine comes in two colours, that is green and red morphine solution. The red morphine is ten times stronger than the green morphine.

## 2 WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE ON A GENUINE MORPHINE PRESCRIPTION

Full Names of the patient, Age, gender, date of prescription, name and signature of the prescriber and the name of the health unit, the dosage and quantity of the morphine dispensed.

## 3 BEFORE YOU GIVE MORPHINE

### Do not give Oral Morphine Solution if:

- Patient is allergic to morphine or any of the other ingredients of Oral Morphine Solution
- there are problems with breathing e.g. an asthma attack
- The patient has convulsions
- The patient is in a deep and prolonged unconscious state
- The patient has recently taken alcohol

*If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to doctor or pharmacist*

## 4. HOW TO TAKE ORAL MORPHINE SOLUTION

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Make sure you have a clean measuring cup before preparing to give medicine to the patient

### Taking this medicine

- Oral morphine is a medicine that is taken by mouth only
- Pour out the morphine dose into the clean measuring cup
- Keep the measuring cup safely for use again
- Make sure that the morphine dose is given every 4 hours
- Always remember to give the patient Bisacodyl at night to prevent constipation.
- If you forget a dose, give it as soon as you remember it and take your next dose at the usual time
- If it is nearly time for the next dose, skip the missed dose. This is because the time between doses should be at least 4 hours
- Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose

## 5 POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF ORAL MORPHINE

Like all medicines, Oral Morphine Solution can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. The following side effects may happen with this medicine:

### Allergic reactions

If you have a severe allergic reaction, stop taking this medicine and see a doctor straight away. Signs may include swelling of the mouth and face, difficulty breathing, dizziness and skin reactions such as rash and itching.

**Tell the doctor straight away if you notice the following side effects. You may need urgent medical treatment:**

- Having a headache. This could be a sign of increased pressure inside your skull
- Feeling dizzy or unsteady when you stand up. This could be a sign of a temporary fall in blood pressure
- Shallow breathing, with a slow heartbeat
- Feeling restless, irritable or having changes in your mood
- Difficulty breathing

### Other side effects

- Feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting)
- Constipation, which can be treated with Bisacodyl tablets
- Feeling drowsy
- Dry mouth, sweating and flushing of your face

### Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

## 6 HOW TO STORE ORAL MORPHINE SOLUTION

- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the bottle label
- Store Oral Morphine Solution in a cool place.
- Keep the morphine in its original container, never pour it in another container.
- Please return any remaining morphine to the pharmacy or clinic when the patient passes on or is no longer taking the medicine or when it expires

## 7 CAUTIONS

**Never sell morphine to anyone because if you are caught doing so, the punishment is imprisonment for not less than two years**

**Never give morphine to anyone to whom it has not been prescribed**

**As a caregiver you should not take morphine unless it has been prescribed for you**

**After giving the patient their dose, keep away the morphine bottle in a safe place out of sight from other people**

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