

Using Morphine to Treat Symptoms

Doctors may give a medicine called morphine to help with pain or trouble breathing. It works well and is safe for short-term use. Morphine may be prescribed by your doctor to treat pain, shortness of breath, anxiety, or other uncomfortable symptoms.

Morphine is available in liquid form. This guide talks about a type of liquid morphine that has 20 mg of morphine in every 1 ml of liquid (called 20 mg/ml).

How to take it

You can take morphine by putting it under your tongue or between your cheek and gums. It can also be mixed with a little water, juice, or soft food like applesauce.

How to measure your dose

Your nurse will tell you how much morphine to take and when to take it. Your nurse might fill a needleless oral syringe (a small, needle-free tube) with the correct dose of morphine. You could also get an empty syringe to fill yourself. The chart below shows how much morphine is in each amount of liquid and how far to fill the syringe for each dose.

Dosing table for morphine 20 mg/ml

Dose of morphine (mg):	Amount of liquid (ml):	Fill the syringe:
5 mg	0.25 ml	Half way between 0.2 and 0.3
10 mg	0.5 ml	To the 0.5 mark
15 mg	0.75 ml	Half way between 0.7 and 0.8
20 mg	1 ml	To the 1.0 mark

Picture of oral syringe showing morphine doses

