



HYDROmorphone:

Safety Considerations in the Field

Choose the right drug, the right dose, and know what is in your hand.

CONSIDER THE BEST ANALGESIC FOR THIS PATIENT

- Confirm the indication and contraindications.
- Consider morphine, fentaNYL and other options, including acetaminophen, NSAIDs and ketamine, as clinically appropriate.
- HYDROmorphone is not inherently a better analgesic because it is more potent.

MORE POTENT ≠ MORE EFFECTIVE.

Choose the analgesic and a dose that are authorized and appropriate for this patient.

READ THE VIAL. EVERY TIME.

- Confirm HYDROmorphone and its concentration before calculating the volume.
- Do not rely on vial appearance, cap colour, packaging, kit location or past experience.
- Services may transition at different times.

Dose-to-volume reference: HYDROmorphone 2 mg/mL

Select a dose that is authorized and appropriate for this patient. Then calculate and independently cross-check the volume.

Dose (mg)	Volume at 2 mg/mL (mL)
0.5 mg	0.25 mL
1 mg	0.5 mL
1.5 mg	0.75 mL
2 mg	1 mL
2.5 mg	1.25 mL
3 mg	1.5 mL
3.5 mg	1.75 mL
4 mg	2 mL

Use a medication cross-check every time.

RPPEO MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION CROSS-CHECK

I – M – I – D – A

I INITIATION

Provider 1:
“Medication cross-check.”
Provider 2: “Ready.”

M MEDICATION VERIFICATION

Provider 1: State intended treatment; hand over vial.
Provider 2: Confirm medication, concentration and expiry aloud.

I INDICATIONS / CONTRAINDICATIONS

Provider 2: Ask for indications and contraindications.
Provider 1: Confirm indication and no pertinent contraindications.

D DOSE & ROUTE

Each provider independently calculates the volume from the vial concentration and intended dose. Compare calculated volume and route. Resolve discrepancies.

A AGREEMENT

Both providers agree before administration.
Provider 2: “Cross-check complete.”

WANT ANOTHER CHECK? CALL OMC. A Base Hospital Physician can assist with dose and volume calculations.

NEED A REFRESHER? Review the Fall 2025 Medication Safety lesson in MedicLEARN. Report incidents and near misses.