



Morphine Sulfate IR Taper

How to Taper Your Immediate-Release Morphine 30 mg Medication

Are you taking the following opioid medication?

- + Morphine sulfate immediate release (MSIR) 30 mg by mouth 3-4x daily

If you are taking this medication, or something similar, you may be appropriate to taper to a safer dosage or off altogether. You can be tapered down or off your morphine slowly, working with your provider to make sure your pain is controlled while avoiding significant withdrawal.

1. You will be prescribed NALOXONE. You and your support member/s will be counseled on appropriate use of the naloxone prior to beginning the taper. Naloxone is a medication that reduces the risk of death from taking too many opioids. This is a key safety measure.
2. Talk to your provider about other nonopioid medications and nonpharmacologic treatments that can help augment pain and mitigate withdrawal.
3. Use a chart, calendar, and/or medication box to help keep you on track with the correct dosage each week.
4. Plan out a reasonable **taper schedule**. The table below shows how to decrease MSIR over a 1+ year period. This schedule can be accelerated based on individual response and conversations with your doctor. The goal is to get you to the finish line safely, not how quickly you get there!

	MSIR Recommendation				
Week	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Dose 4	Total MME
0	30 mg	30 mg	30 mg	30 mg	120
1-4	30 mg	22.5 mg	22.5 mg	30 mg	105
5-8	22.5 mg	22.5 mg	22.5 mg	22.5 mg	90
9-12	22.5 mg	15 mg	15 mg	22.5 mg	75
15-16	15 mg	15 mg	15 mg	15 mg	60
17-20	10 mg	10 mg	10 mg	15 mg	45
21-24	7.5 mg	7.5 mg	7.5 mg	7.5 mg	30*
25-28	7.5 mg	5 mg	7.5 mg	5 mg	27.5
29-32	7.5 mg	5 mg	5 mg	7.5 mg	25
33-36	5 mg	5 mg	5 mg	7.5 mg	22.5
37-40	5 mg	5 mg	5 mg	5 mg	20
41-44	5 mg	2.5 mg	5 mg	5 mg	17.5
45-48	5 mg	2.5 mg	2.5 mg	5 mg	15
49-52	2.5 mg	2.5 mg	2.5 mg	5 mg	12.5
53-56	2.5 mg	2.5 mg	2.5 mg	2.5 mg	10
57-60	2.5 mg	2.5 mg		2.5 mg	7.5
61-62	2.5 mg		2.5 mg		5

*Taper slows once reaching ~20% of total starting dose.



Compass Opioid Prescribing + Treatment Guidance Toolkit



Dosing Help

22.5 mg dose = 1.5 of the 15 mg tabs

10 mg dose = 5 mL of the 10 mg/5 mL solution

7.5 mg dose = 0.5 of the 15 mg tabs

5 mg dose = 2.5 mL of the 10 mg/5 mL solution

2.5 mg dose = 1.25 mL of the 10 mg/5 mL solution

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Developed in collaboration with Stader Opioid Consultants.