

DOSAGE REGIMES FOR METHADONE, CLONIDINE and PHENOBARBITONE

DRUG	DOSAGE
Methadone	<p>0.05 to 0.1 mg/kg 6 hrly orally.</p> <p>Increase the dose if needed by 50 microgram/kg/dose every 6 hours till desired effect achieved. Then give total daily dose that controls symptoms in 2 divided doses per day. (BNFC)</p> <p>Taper the dose by 10-20 % per week.</p> <p>Discontinue when a dose of 0.05 mg/kg per day is reached. (Ref 5)</p>
Clonidine	<p>Starting dose: 0.5 mcg/kg/day divided 4-6 hourly.</p> <p>Maintenance dose: 3-5mcg/kg/day 4-6 hourly.</p> <p>Wean by 25% of total daily dose alternate days. (Ref 4)</p>
Phenobarbitone	<p>Single loading dose 15-20mg/kg orally, intravenously or intramuscularly.</p> <p>Dose can be repeated if symptoms still severe at 8-12 hours after initial dose (maximum loading dose 40mg/kg).</p> <p>Maintenance dose: 3-4mg/kg/day started 12-24 hours after initial dose. Can be given once daily or in two divided doses 12 hourly.</p> <p>Increase by 1-5mg/kg/day until therapeutic plasma levels achieved.</p> <p>Therapeutic trough plasma level = 86-129 micromol/L 24-48 hours post initiation / change in dosing.</p> <p>Weaning: only start weaning once morphine fully weaned off. Decrease by 10-20% per day. (ref 5)</p>
Buprenorphine – not currently recommended treatment due to ethanol content	<p>4-5mcgm/kg/dose every 8 hours Sublingual route, maximum dose 60 microgram /kg /day.</p> <p>Wean after 48 hours stability by 10% per day. (Ref 6)</p>