CAPCE: Opioid Rotation Worksheet (handout)

Formula	Specific Answer
24 hr Total Dose Taken: Calculate the total amount of each route of each opioid given in the previous 24 hours, including regular and PRN doses.	
One Route: if necessary, Using ROUTE conversion ratio (i.e., oral: parental of 2:1), convert to one route of administration.	
Rotating Opioids? **To account for incomplete cross tolerance:** calculate a 30 % to 50% reduction in the 24-hour dose of any opioid that is being rotated to the new opioid. Clinical judgement is used in determining the degree of reduction. (Eg. Is person in pain or opioid toxic?) Always question the physician or pharmacist if you are unsure. **2 Steps: S**ubtract from 24 hr. dose.	Step 1: Step 2:
New Opioid: Choose the medication you plan to use for regular dosing. Using DRUG conversion ratio (i.e., Morphine: Dilaudid of 5:1) from the chart, convert to new drug.	
What is the total dose of the new opioid to be given in 24 hours and the route?	
Dosing of new Opioid: Are you using Sustained release or immediate release? To choose new regular (ATC) dose, divide total 24-hour amount by appropriate interval based on product to be used. For example: q24h divide by 1, q12h divide by 2, q4h divide by 6, for hourly infusion rate divide by 24.	
Calculate the breakthrough dose: (BTD) **FOR PO, SC ,or CSCI :** Calculate 10% of total regularly scheduled opioid in 24 h regardless of route. BTD given q1/2 – 1 h prn Clinical judgment may require lowering the calculated dose.	