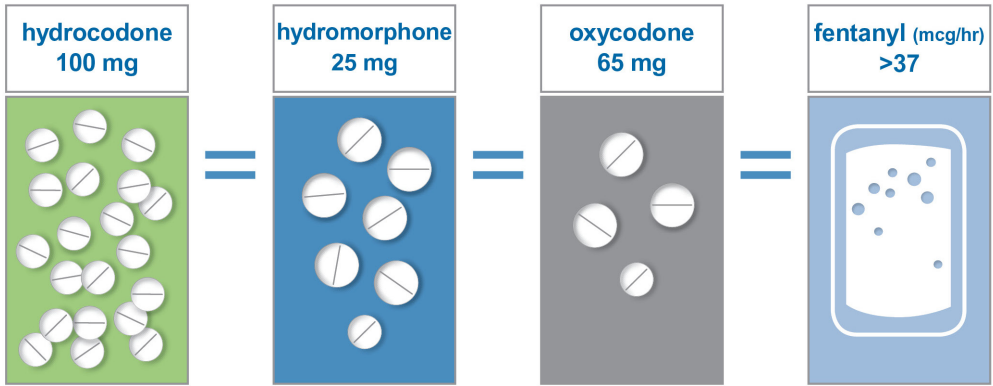


# 100 mg morphine-equivalent dose =



Or use dose calculator online:  
[agency.meddirectors.wa.gov/Calculator/DoseCalculator.htm](http://agency.meddirectors.wa.gov/Calculator/DoseCalculator.htm)

## Identify and reduce risk of opioid overdose.

### Educate patient and family on signs of opioid overdose.

1. Emphasize the need to take as prescribed.
2. Keep track of how frequently “as needed” medications are taken.

### Consider prescribing the opioid antagonist naloxone (Narcan) for:

- anyone on >50mg morphine equivalents daily
- patients on opioids with:
  - renal dysfunction or hepatic disease
  - concurrent benzodiazepine or antidepressant use
- patients or caregivers, upon request

*Be sure to instruct patients on how to administer naloxone (Narcan).*

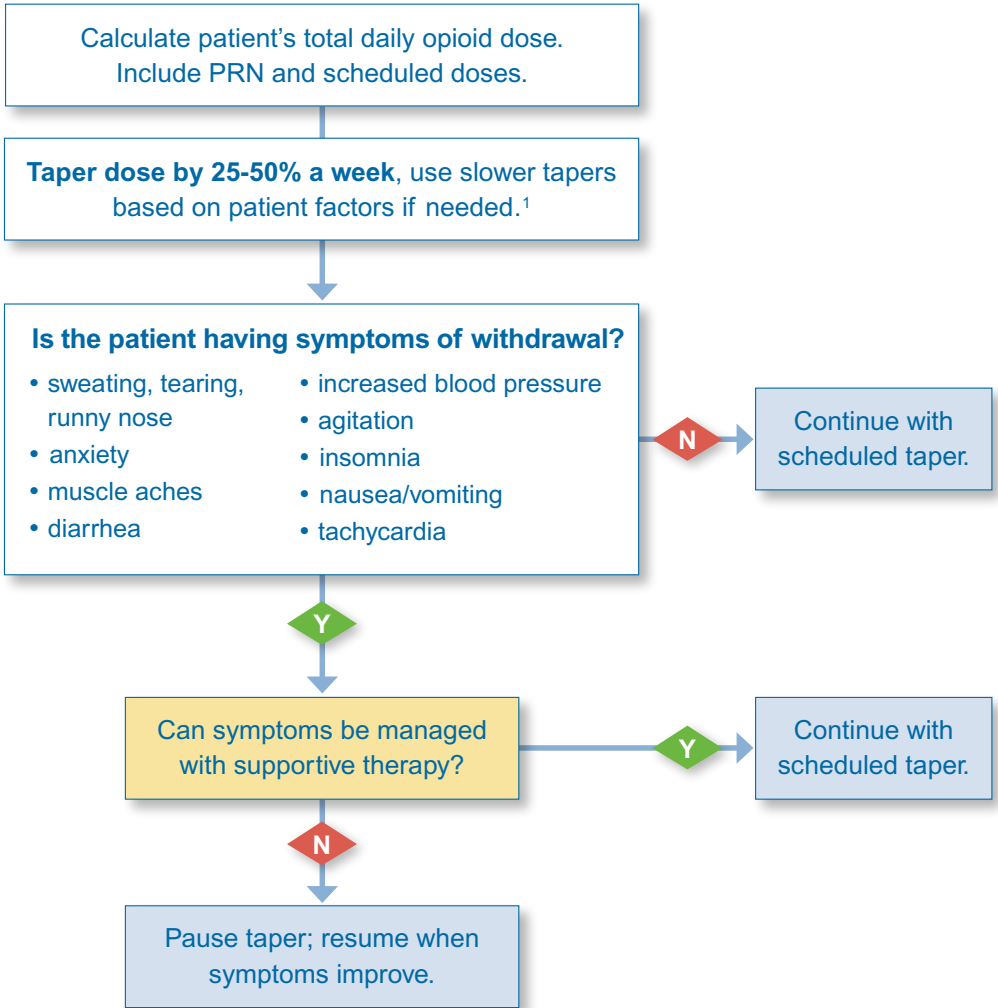


Balanced information for better care

These are general recommendations only; specific clinical decisions should be made by the treating physician based on an individual patient's clinical condition. These materials were made possible by funding from Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Links to references can be found at [AlosaHealth.org](http://AlosaHealth.org).

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# An algorithm for tapering opioids



**If patients exhibit problematic or abusive behaviors during a taper, refer to an addiction or pain specialist.**

(1) Chou R, Fanciullo GJ, Fine PG, et al. Clinical guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in chronic noncancer pain. *J Pain.* 2009;10(2):113-130.

More information on the evidence behind these recommendations can be found at [AlosaHealth.org/modules/opioids](https://AlosaHealth.org/modules/opioids)