

Number 18 –
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Patient Safety ALERT: Documenting incremental doses of intravenous morphine

When a patient is prescribed intravenous morphine with a variable dose, it is essential that **every incremental dose of morphine administered is documented individually**. Documenting the total dose of morphine administered is poor practice and increases the risk of patient harm. An example of how to document incremental doses is shown here:

AS REQUIRED PRESCRIPTIONS

Patient name: A Patient
NHS No: 123456
Hospital No: 654321
DOB: 00/00/00

DRUG (Approved name)			Date														
MORPHINE SULPHATE			29/1/15	29/1/15	29/1/15	29/1/15											
Route	Dose	Max. frequency	Time														
IV	1-10mg	4 ⁰	15 ⁰⁰	15 ⁰⁵	15 ¹⁰	15 ¹⁵											
Print name + GMC no.			Dose														
A DOCTOR 12364			2.5 mg	2.5 mg	2.5 mg	2.5 mg											
Date			Pharm	Given by													
29.1.15				AN	AN	AN	AN										
Other directions			Checked by														
			BN														

More information can be found in the [Acute Pain Management Guidelines \(page 11\)](#)

FOR ACTION:
All staff administering incremental doses of intravenous morphine must clearly document each dose given.

For more information, please contact amandabarker1@nhs.net