

HOSPICE PATIENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

TIPS FOR USING LIQUID OPIOIDS

Morphine concentrate 100mg/5ml (20mg/ml) Solution Oxycodone concentrate 100mg/5ml (20mg/ml) Solution

Your doctor has ordered a bottle of liquid which contains an opioid for pain management. These medications are very safe when used properly, however concentrated solutions require careful measuring of the dose before giving or taking the medication.

The bottle usually comes from your pharmacy with either a dropper or syringe. Only use the syringe or dropper that came with your bottle. Do not even place other syringes or droppers near the container in case they get used by accident. The dropper/syringe that came with the bottle is specially designed and marked to make sure it accurately measures concentrated doses of opioids. NEVER use a spoon to measure an opioid dose.

Different ways to fill the dropper or syringe:

- If the bottle has a special cap that comes with a syringe, the syringe can be inserted into the top and the bottle can be flipped upside down to draw up the correct amount.
- Place the dropper or syringe directly into the bottle
- Pour the medication into a cup first and then draw into the syringe. Remember to pour the medication back into the bottle. This works best if the cup has a pouring spout.

