OPIOID FORMULATONS

Opioids are available in various formulations, each requiring specific considerations for safe administration. These formulations are commonly labeled as **"IR"** (immediate release), **"ER"** or **"XR"** (extended release), **"CR" (**controlled release), or **"SR"** (sustained release). Understanding these labels is essential to ensure patients receive the correct dose.

The table below includes common opioid brand names and their formulations. For more information on **Opioid Safety** visit Health PEI Staff Resource Center.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Look closely when administering opioids to ensure it is the proper formulation.
- **Immediate release** formulations are used to treat **acute or breakthrough pain** and will only have the drug name and strength on the packaging or have "**IR**" following the drug name.
- **PRN opioids** are most often immediate release "**IR**" formulations.
- **Long-acting** formulations are used to treat **pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment** and are frequently labelled with **SR, ER, XR or CR**.
- If you are unsure if you chose the right medication, take a second look, ask for help, or call the pharmacy department for guidance.

Drug Name	Brand Name	Delivery Formulation
Codeine	Codeine Contin®	Controlled Release
	Codeine Phosphate®	Immediate Release
	Tylenol 1,2 & 3®	Immediate Release
HYDROmorphone	HYDROmorph Contin®	Controlled Release
	Dilaudid®	Immediate Release
Morphine	MS Contin ® (q12h)	Sustained release
	Kadian ® (q24h)	Sustained release
	M-Eslon ® (q12h)	Extended Release
	Statex®	Immediate Release
	MS-IR®	Immediate Release
Oxycodone	Oxy-NEO®	Controlled Release
	Acet/Oxycodone	Immediate Release
	Oxy-IR®	Immediate Release
	Supeudol®	Immediate Release
Tapentadol	Nucynta ER®	Extended Release
	Nucynta IR®	Immediate Release
Tramadol	Durela® (q24h)	Extended Release
	Zytram XL ® (q24h)	Controlled Release
	Tridural® (q24h)	Extended Release
	Ralivia® (q24h)	Extended Release
	Acet/Tramadol	Immediate Release
	Tramadol	Immediate Release