



Immediate release (IR) opioids

These are 'fast acting' opioids suitable to be taken for breakthrough (sudden/extra) pain because they act quickly. Most work 30 minutes to 1 hour after taking a dose and usually last for about 4 hours. Examples of immediate release opioids include oramorph liquid, Sevredol tablets and oxycodone IR liquid or capsules.

If the medication has not worked after 1 hour, a second dose can be taken.

If you need more than 2-3 doses of immediate release opioids each day, tell your doctor or nurse, as it may be necessary to increase the modified release opioid.

Immediate release opioids may also be prescribed at regular intervals throughout the day when you first start taking strong opioids, to help decide what dose of modified release opioid you need.

How will you choose which drug I take?

Drowsiness

People can feel drowsy fo

