

**VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL  
CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES  
SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAM (SAP) DRUG DATA SHEET**

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**DRUG NAME**

Methadone

**ALTERNATE NAMES**

Synastone®

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**MANUFACTURER**

Auden Mckenzie

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**STRENGTH**

10mg/mL (1mL & 5mL amps)

**DOSAGE FORM**

Injection

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**INDICATIONS**

Symptomatic relief of severe pain.

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**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Adult dosing:

- SC or IM: 2.5mg to 10mg every 3 to 4 hours as necessary
  - IV:
    - IV infusion: 1 to 5 mg/hour titrated to effect. There is no maximum dose.
    - Rate of administration depends on patient's response. Infusion rate must be controlled by an automatic infusion control device.
    - Dilute in 100 to 1000 mL for continuous or intermittent IV infusion. Maximum diluted concentration is 10mg/mL for patients requiring minimum volume.
    - 1-5mg/mL diluted solutions are stable for 28 days at room temperature.
    - Compatible with normal saline.
    - Incompatible with heparin, pentobarbital, phenobarbital, secobarbital, phenytoin, sodium bicarbonate.
    - Methadone PO:IV or SC conversion of 3:1 or 2:1
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**KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS\***

- Respiratory depression, circulatory depression and orthostatic hypotension may be increased (antidote = naloxone)
  - Allergic-type reaction due to direct stimulation of histamine release may occur and consists of hypotension, Skin rash and wheal and flare over vein.
  - Increased intracranial pressure, sedation, dizziness
  - Repeated SC administration may cause local tissue irritation, pain and induration
  - Suggested to maintain SC doses  $\leq$  25mg/dose to minimize side effects. To minimize irritation, administer 2mL of NS after each SC dose. Rotate SC injection sites.
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**SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS**

- Use with caution in patients with convulsive disorders, cranial injuries, respiratory insufficiency, cardiac arrhythmias, reduced blood volume
  - If used with other narcotics, sedatives, phenothiazines or anesthetics, respiratory and circulatory depression may be enhanced.
  - Resuscitative equipment should be readily available
  - Monitoring parameters:
    - Therapeutic: Severity of pain, time and frequency of breakthrough pain
    - Toxicity: Respiratory rate, sedation scale
  - Store ampoules at room temperature.
  - There are TWO ampule strengths.
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**\*REPORT ANY ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS TO CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**