

Oxycodone (OxyNorm®, Endone®)

What is oxycodone?

Oxycodone is a strong pain control medication of the opioid type. It is available in liquid, tablet or capsule form. These forms of oxycodone are designed to give up to 6 hours of pain control and should not be confused with slow or long acting oxycodone preparations. It is only available on prescription.

What is it for?

Oxycodone is used in the management of moderate to severe pain. This can include post-operative pain, trauma pain or disease related pain.

Post-operative pain control

- Pain control is best achieved with regular paracetamol (Panadol®) or ibuprofen (Nurofen®) with the addition of oxycodone when required for more severe pain.
- Oxycodone works in a different way to paracetamol and ibuprofen, and when given together can provide better pain control.
- Medications for post-operative pain control should generally be given reasonably regularly in the first 24 to 72 hours after the operation. It can then be gradually reduced depending on your child's requirements.
- The degree and duration of post-operative pain depends on the operation and the individual.
- After an operation, pain usually reduces with time. If there is a sudden increase in the frequency or the severity of the pain, contact either your GP or PCH.

How to take this medication

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people. It should be taken as soon as possible after the onset of moderate to severe pain. Oxycodone is usually taken every 4 to 6 hours.

Liquid oxycodone can be mixed with other liquids such as juice or cordial if your child does not like the taste. Capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water. Both forms can be taken with or without food.

This medication interacts with grapefruit. Avoid eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit while being treated with this medication.

Storing the medication

Store below **30°C**. It is important to store oxycodone in a secure cupboard out of reach of children. Do not keep the medication in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places as this may make the medication less effective.



Disposal of the medication

If your child no longer requires oxycodone, it must be returned to either your local retail pharmacy or the hospital pharmacy for disposal.

Use of other medication

Care must be taken when using oxycodone with some other medications. These include medications that can make your child drowsy such as muscle relaxants, sleeping tablets, some antidepressants and antihistamines.

Paracetamol and ibuprofen are safe to use in combination with oxycodone and will also help manage and treat pain. Combination pain killers such as Panadeine[®], Painstop[®] or Panadeine Forte[®] should not be used with oxycodone.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription, over the counter or herbal medicines.

Possible side effects

There are a number of possible side effects of oxycodone, they include:

- nausea, constipation or stomach upset
- drowsiness, dizziness, confusion
- dry mouth or sore throat
- itchy skin or a rash
- flushing of the face.

Contact your child's doctor as soon as possible if your child becomes very drowsy, is difficult to rouse or appears to be having trouble breathing.

Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

- OxyNorm[®] liquid 1mg/mL
- OxyNorm[®] capsules 5mg, 10mg and 20mg
- Endone[®] tablets 5mg

Your hospital pharmacy will advise you if they manufacture any additional dosage forms to the above.

If you have any concerns contact your child's doctor, or the PCH Pharmacy Department.

- Outpatient dispensary: 6456 0190 – select option 2
- Paediatric Medicines Information Service: 6456 0190 – select option 1
- **In case of overdose or poisoning contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.**



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