

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH  
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

**Npms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR**

Morphine Sulfate Immediate Release Tablets

Tablets, 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg, Oral

House Standard

Opioid Analgesic

N02AA01

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## RECENT MAJOR LABEL CHANGES

None at the time of authorization are listed.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sections or subsections that are not applicable at the time of authorization are not listed.

<b>RECENT MAJOR LABEL CHANGES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1 INDICATIONS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1 Pediatrics.....	4
1.2 Geriatrics .....	4
<b>2 CONTRAINDICATIONS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3 SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
4.1 Dosing Considerations .....	6
4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment.....	7
4.4 Administration .....	10
4.5 Missed Dose .....	10
<b>5 OVERDOSAGE</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>7.1 Special Populations</b> .....	<b>20</b>
7.1.1 Pregnant Women.....	20
7.1.2 Breast-feeding .....	21
7.1.3 Pediatrics (<18 years of age) .....	21
7.1.4 Geriatrics (>65 years of age).....	21
<b>8 ADVERSE REACTIONS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview.....	21
8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions .....	23
8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions.....	24
<b>9 DRUG INTERACTIONS</b> .....	<b>25</b>
9.1 Serious Drug Interactions .....	25

9.2	Drug Interactions Overview .....	26
9.3	Drug-Behavioural Interactions .....	26
9.4	Drug-Drug Interactions .....	26
9.5	Drug-Food Interactions .....	27
9.6	Drug-Herb Interactions.....	27
9.7	Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions .....	27
<b>10</b>	<b>CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY .....</b>	<b>27</b>
10.1	Mechanism of Action .....	27
10.2	Pharmacodynamics .....	27
10.3	Pharmacokinetics .....	29
<b>11</b>	<b>STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION .....</b>		<b>31</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>CLINICAL TRIALS.....</b>	<b>32</b>
	14.2 Comparative Bioavailability Studies .....	32
<b>15</b>	<b>MICROBIOLOGY .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>SUPPORTING PRODUCT MONOGRAPHS.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION .....</b>		<b>34</b>

## PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR (morphine sulfate) tablets are indicated for the symptomatic relief of severe pain in adults.

#### 1.1 Pediatrics

**Pediatrics (<18 years of age):** The safety and efficacy of morphine sulfate have not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

#### 1.2 Geriatrics

**Geriatrics (>65 years of age):** In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range and titrated slowly, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, concomitant disease or other drug therapy (see [10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics](#)).

### 2 CONTRAINDICATIONS

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is contraindicated in:

- Patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation, including any non-medicinal ingredient, or component of the container. For a complete listing, see [6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING](#).
- Patients with known or suspected mechanical gastrointestinal obstruction (e.g., bowel obstruction, strictures) or any diseases/conditions that affect bowel transit (e.g., ileus of any type).
- Patients with suspected surgical abdomen (e.g., acute appendicitis or pancreatitis).
- Patients with mild pain that can be managed with other pain medications.
- Patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive airway, and status asthmaticus.
- Patients with acute respiratory depression with hypoxia and/or hypercapnia, and cor pulmonale.
- Patients with acute alcoholism, delirium tremens, and convulsive disorders.
- Patients with severe CNS depression, increased cerebrospinal or intracranial pressure, brain tumour and/or head injury.
- Patients with cardiac arrhythmias.
- Patients taking monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (or within 14 days of such

therapy).

- Women who are breast-feeding, pregnant, or during labour and delivery (see [3 SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX](#), and [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#)).

### 3 SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX

#### Serious Warnings and Precautions

##### *Limitations of Use*

Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the risks of overdose and death with immediate release opioid formulations, pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR (morphine sulfate) tablets should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide appropriate management of pain (see [4.1 Dosing Considerations](#)).

##### *Addiction, Abuse, and Misuse*

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR poses risks of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Each patient's risk should be assessed prior to prescribing pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, and all patients should be monitored regularly for the development of these behaviours or conditions (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, General, Addiction, Abuse and Misuse](#)). pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should be stored securely to avoid theft or misuse.

##### *Life-threatening Respiratory Depression: OVERDOSE*

Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression may occur with use of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. Infants exposed in-utero or through breast milk are at risk of life-threatening respiratory depression upon delivery or when nursed. Patients should be monitored for respiratory depression, especially during initiation of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR or following a dose increase (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Respiratory, Respiratory Depression](#)).

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR must be swallowed whole. Cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing, or dissolving pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR can lead to dangerous adverse events including death. Further, instruct patients of the hazards related to taking opioids including fatal overdose.

##### *Accidental Exposure*

Accidental ingestion of even one dose of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, especially by children, can result in a fatal overdose of morphine (see [11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL](#) for instructions on proper disposal).

##### *Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome*

Prolonged maternal use of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential, Teratogenic Risk, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome \(NOWS\)](#)).

#### *Interaction with Alcohol*

The co-ingestion of alcohol with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should be avoided as it may result in dangerous additive effects, causing serious injury or death (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, General](#) and [9.2 Drug Interactions Overview, Interactions with Central Nervous Systems \(CNS\) Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#)).

#### *Risks From Concomitant Use with Benzodiazepines or Other CNS Depressants*

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic, Interactions with CNS Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#) and [9.2 Drug Interactions Overview, Interactions with Central Nervous Systems \(CNS\) Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#)).

- Reserve concomitant prescribing of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.
- Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required.
- Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

## **4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **4.1 Dosing Considerations**

For acute pain, it is recommended that pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR be used for a maximum of 7 days at the lowest dose that provides adequate pain relief.

All doses of opioids carry an inherent risk of fatal or non-fatal adverse events. This risk is increased with higher doses. For the management of chronic non-cancer, non-palliative pain, it is recommended that 90 mg daily of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR not be exceeded. Each patient should be assessed for their risk prior to prescribing pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, as the likelihood of experiencing serious adverse events can depend upon the type of opioid, duration of treatment, level of pain as well as the patient's own level of tolerance. In addition, the level of pain should be assessed routinely to confirm the most appropriate dose and the need for further use of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR (see [4.2 Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage](#)).

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics) are ineffective, or not tolerated or would be otherwise inadequate to provide appropriate management of pain.

**pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR tablets must be swallowed whole. Cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing, or dissolving pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR can lead to dangerous adverse events including death (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, General, Addiction, Abuse and Misuse](#)).**

Administration and dosing of morphine should be individualized bearing in mind the properties of the drug. In addition, the nature and severity of the pain or pains experienced, and the total condition of the patient must be taken into account. Of special importance is other medication given previously or concurrently.

As with other opioid analgesics, use of morphine for the management of persistent pain should be preceded by a thorough assessment of the patient and diagnosis of the specific pain or pains and their causes. Use of opioids for the relief of chronic pain, including cancer pain, all important as it may be, should be only one part of a comprehensive approach to pain control including other treatment modalities or drug therapy, non-drug measures and psychosocial support.

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR tablets should be used with caution within 12 hours pre-operatively and within the first 12-24 hours post-operatively (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Peri-operative Considerations](#)).

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is not indicated for rectal administration.

## **4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment**

**Pediatrics (<18 years of age):** Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use (see [1.1 Pediatrics](#)).

**Adults (≥18 years of age):** Individual dosing requirements vary considerably based on each patient's age, weight, severity of pain, and medical and analgesic history.

The most frequent initial dose is 10 mg orally, every 4 hours as needed for acute pain and every 4 hours around-the-clock for chronic pain, or as directed by a physician.

### **Patients Over the Age of 50**

Patients over 50 years of age tend to require much lower doses of morphine than in the younger age group. An appropriate dose in this age group may be as low as half as or less than the usual dose in the younger age group.

**Geriatrics (>65 years of age):** In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range and slowly titrated, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function, concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Respiratory depression has occurred in the elderly following administration of large initial doses of opioids to patients who were not opioid-tolerant or when opioids were co-administered with other agents that can depress respiration (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Respiratory, Respiratory Depression](#) and [10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics](#)).

### Patients Not Receiving Opioids at the Time of Initiation of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR Treatment

The usual initial adult dose of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR for patients who have not previously received opioid analgesics is 5 or 10 mg, orally, every 4 hours.

### Patients Currently Receiving Opioids

For patients who are receiving an alternate opioid, the “oral morphine sulfate equivalent” of the analgesic presently being used, should be determined. Having determined the total daily dosage of the present analgesic, Table 1 (below) can be used to calculate the approximate daily oral morphine sulfate dosage that should provide equivalent analgesia. It is usually appropriate to treat a patient with only one opioid at a time. Further dose reductions should be considered due to incomplete cross-tolerance between opioids.

**Opioid Rotation:** Conversion ratios for opioids are subject to variations in kinetics governed by genetics and other factors. When switching from one opioid to another, **consider reducing the calculated dose by 25-50%** to minimize the risk of overdose. Subsequently, up-titrate the dose, as required, to reach the appropriate maintenance dose.

**Table 1 – Opioid Conversion Table<sup>a</sup>**

Opioids	To convert to oral morphine equivalent	To convert from oral morphine multiply by	Daily 90 mg MED <sup>b</sup>
Morphine	1	1	90 mg
Codeine	0.15	6.67	600 mg
Hydromorphone	5	0.2	18 mg
Oxycodone	1.5	0.667	60 mg
Tapentadol	0.3-0.4	2.5-3.33	300 mg
Tramadol	0.1-0.2	6	***
Methadone	Morphine dose equivalence is not reliably established		

\*\*\* The maximum recommended daily dose of tramadol is 300 mg – 400 mg depending on the formulation.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the 2017 Canadian guideline for opioids for chronic non-cancer pain. McMaster University; 2017

<sup>b</sup> MED. Morphine Equivalent Dose

### Debilitated Patients

In debilitated patients and those with impaired respiratory function or significantly decreased hepatic and/or renal function, morphine should be administered with caution and at one half of the usual recommended dose (see [7.1 Special Populations](#) and [10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special](#)



[Populations and Conditions](#)).

### **Patients with Hepatic Impairment**

Dosage reduction is recommended in severe hepatic impairment due to the risk of toxicity (see [10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency](#)).

### **Patients with Renal Impairment**

Dosage reduction is recommended in severe renal impairment due to the risk of toxicity (see [10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Renal Insufficiency](#)).

### **Use with Non-Opioid Medications**

If a non-opioid analgesic is being provided, it may be continued. If the non-opioid is discontinued, consideration should be given to increasing the opioid dose to compensate for the non-opioid analgesic. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR can be safely used concomitantly with usual doses of other non - opioid analgesics.

### **Dose Titration**

Dose titration is the key to success with opioid analgesic therapy. **Proper optimization of doses scaled to the relief of the individual's pain should aim at regular administration of the lowest dose which will achieve the overall treatment goal of satisfactory pain relief with acceptable side effects.**

Dose adjustments should be based on the patient's clinical response.

### **Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage**

Physical dependence with or without psychological dependence tends to occur with chronic administration of opioids, including pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. Withdrawal (abstinence) symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy. These symptoms may include body aches, diarrhea, gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nausea, nervousness or restlessness, runny nose, sneezing, tremors or shivering, stomach cramps, tachycardia, trouble with sleeping, unusual increase in sweating, palpitations, unexplained fever, weakness and yawning.

Following successful relief of severe pain, periodic attempts to reduce the opioid dose should be made. Smaller doses or complete discontinuation may become feasible due to a change in the patient's condition or improved mental state. Patients on prolonged therapy should be withdrawn gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. In patients who are appropriately treated with opioid analgesics and who undergo gradual withdrawal for the drug, these symptoms are usually mild (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Dependence/Tolerance](#)). Tapering should be individualized and carried out under medical supervision.

Patients should be informed that reducing and/or discontinuing opioids decreases their tolerance to these drugs. If treatment needs to be re-initiated, the patient must start at the lowest dose and titrate up to avoid overdose.

Opioid analgesics may only be partially effective in relieving dysesthetic pain, post-herpetic neuralgia, stabbing pains, activity-related pain, and some forms of headache. This is not to say that patients with advanced cancer suffering from some of these forms of pain should not be given an adequate trial of opioid analgesics, but it may be necessary to refer such patients at an early time for other forms of pain therapy.

#### **4.4 Administration**

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR tablets may be taken with a glass of water.

#### **4.5 Missed Dose**

If the patient forgets to take one or more doses, they should take their next dose at the next scheduled time and in the normal amount.

### **5 OVERDOSAGE**

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre immediately.

#### **Symptoms**

Serious overdose with morphine may be characterized by respiratory depression (respiratory rate and/or tidal volume; Cheyne-Stokes respiration; cyanosis), dizziness, confusion, extreme somnolence progressing to stupor or coma, pneumonia aspiration, miosis, rhabdomyolysis progressing to renal failure, skeletal muscle flaccidity, hypotonia, cold and clammy skin, toxic leukoencephalopathy, delayed post-hypoxic leukoencephalopathy and sometimes bradycardia and hypotension. Pinpoint pupils are a sign of narcotic overdose, but are not pathognomonic (e.g., pontine lesions of hemorrhagic or ischemic origin may produce similar findings). Marked mydriasis rather than miosis may be seen with hypoxia in the setting of morphine overdose. Severe overdose may result in apnea, circulatory collapse, cardiac arrest and death.

#### **Treatment**

Primary attention should be given to the establishment of adequate respiratory exchange through the provision of a patent airway and controlled or assisted ventilation. The opioid antagonist naloxone hydrochloride is a specific antidote against respiratory depression due to overdose or as a result of unusual sensitivity to morphine. An appropriate dose should therefore be administered, preferably by the intravenous route. The usual initial intravenous adult dose of naloxone is 0.4 mg or higher. Concomitant efforts at respiratory resuscitation should be carried out. Since the duration of action of morphine may exceed that of the antagonist, the patient should be under continued surveillance and doses of the antagonist should be repeated as needed to maintain adequate respiration.

An antagonist should not be administered in the absence of clinically significant respiratory or cardiovascular depression. Oxygen, intravenous fluids, vasopressors and other supportive measures should be used as indicated.

In an individual physically dependent on opioids, the administration of the usual dose of opioid antagonist will precipitate an acute withdrawal syndrome. The severity of this syndrome will depend on the degree of physical dependence and the dose of antagonist administered. The use of opioid antagonists in such individuals should be avoided if possible. If an opioid antagonist must be used to treat serious respiratory depression in the physically dependent patient, the antagonist should be administered with extreme care by using dosage titration, commencing with 10% to 20% of the usual recommended initial dose.

Evacuation of gastric contents may be useful in removing unabsorbed drug.

## 6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

**Table 2 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging**

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength/Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
Oral	Immediate Release Tablets / 5, 10, 20 and 30 mg	Calcium carbonate (10 mg), Croscarmellose sodium, FD&C Blue no. 2/Indigo carmine aluminium lake (5 mg, 10 mg), Iron oxide yellow (5 mg), Lactose monohydrate, Magnesium stearate, Microcrystalline cellulose, Polyethylene glycol, Polyvinyl alcohol, Talc and Titanium dioxide.

### Dosage Forms

**5 mg:** Light green, round shaped, biconvex coated tablet, scored on one side and debossed with “5” on the other side.

**10 mg:** Light blue, round shaped, biconvex coated tablet, scored on one side and debossed with “10” on the other side.

**20 mg:** White, modified capsule shaped, biconvex coated tablet, scored on one side and debossed with “20” on the other side.

**30 mg:** White, oval shaped, biconvex coated tablet, scored on one side and debossed with “30” on the other side.

### Packaging

**5 mg:** Available in bottles of 100 tablets and blisters of 60 tablets.

**10 mg:** Available in bottles of 100 tablets and blisters of 60 tablets.

**20 mg:** Available in bottles of 100 tablets and blisters of 40 tablets.

**30 mg:** Available in bottles of 100 tablets and blisters of 50 tablets.

## 7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Please see the [3 SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX](#) at the beginning of Part I: Health Professional Information.

### **General**

Patients should be instructed not to give pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR to anyone other than for whom it was prescribed, as such, inappropriate use may have severe medical consequences, including death. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should be stored securely to avoid theft or misuse.

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should only be prescribed by healthcare professionals who are knowledgeable in the continuous administration of potent opioids, in the management of patients receiving potent opioids for the treatment of pain, and in the detection and management of respiratory depression, including the use of opioid antagonists.

In diseases, such as malignant cancers, where pain control is the primary focus, opioid administration at very high doses is associated with seizures and myoclonus.

Patients should be cautioned not to consume alcohol while taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects, including death.

Hyperalgesia that will not respond to a further dose increase of morphine sulfate may occur in particular in high doses. A morphine sulfate dose reduction or change in opioid may be required.

### ***Addiction, Abuse and Misuse***

Like all opioids, pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is a potential drug of abuse and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Therefore, pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should be prescribed and handled with caution. Patients should be assessed for their clinical risks for opioid abuse or addiction prior to being prescribed opioids. All patients receiving opioids should be routinely monitored for signs of misuse and abuse.

Opioids, such as pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, should be used with particular care in patients with a history of alcohol and illicit/prescription drug abuse and other mental health disorders including, but not limited to, major depression and anxiety. However, concerns about abuse, addiction, and diversion should not prevent the proper management of pain.

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is intended for oral use only. The tablets should be swallowed whole, and not chewed or crushed. Abuse of oral dosage forms can be expected to result in serious adverse events, including death. With parenteral abuse, the tablet excipients, especially talc, can be expected to result in local tissue necrosis, infection, pulmonary granulomas, and increased risk of endocarditis and valvular heart injury, which may also be fatal.

## Patient Counselling Information

A patient information sheet should be provided to patients when pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is dispensed to them.

Patients receiving pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should be given the following instructions by the physician:

1. Patients should be informed that accidental ingestion or use by individuals (including children) other than the patient for whom it was originally prescribed, may lead to severe, even fatal, consequences.
2. Patients should be advised that pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR contains morphine, an opioid pain medicine.
3. Patients should be advised that pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should only be taken as directed. The dose of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be adjusted without consulting with a physician. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR must be swallowed whole (not cut, broken, chewed, dissolved or crushed) due to the risk of fatal morphine overdose.
4. Patients should be advised to report episodes of pain and adverse experiences occurring during therapy. Individualization of dosage is essential to make optimal use of this medication.
5. Patients should not combine pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR with alcohol or other central nervous system depressants (sleep aids, tranquilizers) because dangerous additive effects may occur resulting in serious injury or death.
6. Patients should be advised to consult their physician or pharmacist if other medications are being used or will be used with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.
7. Patients should be advised that if they have been receiving treatment with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR and cessation of therapy is indicated, it may be appropriate to taper the pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR dose, rather than abruptly discontinue it, due to the risk of precipitating withdrawal symptoms.
8. Patients should be informed that pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR could cause seizures if they are at risk for seizure or have epilepsy. Patients should be advised not to take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR if they have seizure disorders. Patients should be advised to stop taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR if they have a seizure while taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR and seek medical help immediately.
9. Patients should be advised of the most common adverse reactions that may occur while taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR: constipation, dizziness, hyperhidrosis, nausea, sedation and vomiting. If symptoms worsen, seek immediate medical attention.
10. Patients should be advised that pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR may cause drowsiness, dizziness, or light-headedness and may impair mental and/or physical ability required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks (e.g., driving, operating machinery). Patients started on pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR or patients whose dose has been adjusted should be advised not to drive a car or operate machinery unless they are tolerant to the effects of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.
11. Patients should be advised that pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is a potential drug of abuse. They should protect it from theft or misuse.
12. Patients should be advised that pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should never be given to

anyone other than the individual for whom it was prescribed.

13. Women of childbearing potential who become or are planning to become pregnant should be advised to consult a physician prior to initiating or continuing therapy with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. Women who are breast-feeding or pregnant should not use pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

## **Cardiovascular**

### ***Hypotension***

Morphine administration may result in severe hypotension in patients whose ability to maintain adequate blood pressure is compromised by reduced blood volume, or concurrent administration of such drugs as phenothiazines and other tranquilizers, sedative/hypnotics, tricyclic antidepressants or general anesthetics. These patients should be monitored for signs of hypotension after initiating or titrating the dose of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

The use of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR in patients with circulatory shock should be avoided as it may cause vasodilation that can further reduce cardiac output and blood pressure.

### **Dependence/Tolerance**

As with other opioids, tolerance, physical and psychological dependence and opioid use disorder (OUD) tend to develop upon repeated administration of morphine sulfate.

Physical dependence and tolerance reflect the neuroadaptation of the opioid receptors to chronic exposure to an opioid, and are separate and distinct from abuse and addiction. Tolerance, as well as physical dependence, may develop upon repeated administration of opioids, and are not by themselves evidence of an addictive disorder or abuse.

In addition, abuse of opioids can occur in the absence of true addiction and is characterized by misuse for non-medical purposes.

Abuse or intentional misuse of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR may result in overdose and/or death. The risk of developing OUD is increased in patients with a personal or a family history (parents or siblings) of substance use disorders (including alcohol use disorder), in current tobacco users or in patients with a personal history of other mental health disorders (e.g. major depression, anxiety and personality disorders).

Patients will require monitoring for signs of drug-seeking behaviour (e.g. too early requests for refills). This includes the review of concomitant opioids and psycho-active drugs (like benzodiazepines). For patients with signs and symptoms of OUD, consultation with an addiction specialist should be considered.

Patients on prolonged therapy should be tapered gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. Withdrawal symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy or upon administration of an opioid antagonist. Some of the symptoms that may be associated with abrupt withdrawal of an opioid analgesic include body aches, diarrhea,

gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nausea, nervousness or restlessness, anxiety, runny nose, sneezing, tremors or shivering, stomach cramps, tachycardia, trouble with sleeping, unusual increase in sweating, palpitations, unexplained fever, weakness and yawning (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, 4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage](#)).

### ***Use in Drug and Alcohol Addiction***

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is an opioid with no approved use in the management of addictive disorders. Its proper usage in individuals with drug or alcohol dependence, either active or in remission is for the management of pain requiring opioid analgesia. Patients with a history of addiction to drugs or alcohol may be at higher risk of becoming addicted to pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR; extreme caution and awareness is warranted to mitigate the risk.

### **Driving and Operating Machinery**

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR may impair the mental and/or physical abilities needed for certain potentially hazardous activities such as driving a car or operating machinery. Patients should be cautioned accordingly. Patients should also be cautioned about the combined effects of morphine with other CNS depressants, including other opioids, phenothiazines, sedative/hypnotics and alcohol.

### **Endocrine and Metabolism**

#### ***Adrenal Insufficiency***

Cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported with opioid use, more often following greater than one month of use. Presentation of adrenal insufficiency may include non-specific symptoms and signs including nausea, vomiting, anorexia, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, and low blood pressure. If adrenal insufficiency is suspected, confirm the diagnosis with diagnostic testing as soon as possible. If adrenal insufficiency is diagnosed, treat with physiologic replacement doses of corticosteroids. Wean the patient off of the opioid to allow adrenal function to recover and continue corticosteroid treatment until adrenal function recovers. Other opioids may be tried as some cases reported use of a different opioid without recurrence of adrenal insufficiency. The information available does not identify any particular opioids as being more likely to be associated with adrenal insufficiency.

### **Gastrointestinal**

Morphine and other morphine-like opioids have been shown to decrease bowel motility. Morphine may obscure the diagnosis or clinical course of patients with acute abdominal conditions (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)) and is also contraindicated in patients with paralytic ileus and appendicitis (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#) and [8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview, Nausea and Vomiting](#) and [8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview, Constipation](#)).

### **Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic**

Morphine can cause spasm of the sphincter of Oddi and an increase in intrabiliary pressure. Other opioid related effects may include a reduction in biliary and pancreatic secretions or elevations in serum amylase. Morphine should be avoided in patients with biliary tract disorders. Monitor patients for worsening symptoms related to biliary tract disease, including

acute pancreatitis. Morphine is contraindicated in pancreatitis (see [2 CONTRAINDICATION](#)).

## Neurologic

### ***Interactions with CNS Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol)***

Morphine should be used only with caution and in a reduced dosage during concomitant administration of other opioid analgesics, general anesthetics, phenothiazines and other tranquilizers, sedative-hypnotics, tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, antihistamines, benzodiazepines, centrally-active anti-emetics and other CNS depressants. Respiratory depression, hypotension and profound sedation, coma or death may result. When such combination therapy is contemplated, a substantial reduction in the dose of one or both agents should be considered and patients should be carefully monitored. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects (see [9.2 Drug Interactions Overview, Interactions with Central Nervous Systems \(CNS\) Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#)).

Observational studies have demonstrated that concomitant use of opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines increases the risk of drug-related mortality compared to use of opioid analgesics alone. Because of similar pharmacological properties, it is reasonable to expect similar risk with the concomitant use of other CNS depressant drugs with opioid analgesics (see [9.2 Drug Interactions Overview, Interactions with Central Nervous Systems \(CNS\) Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#)). If the decision is made to prescribe a benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant concomitantly with an opioid analgesic, prescribe the lowest effective dosages and minimum durations of concomitant use. In patients already receiving an opioid analgesic, prescribe a lower initial dose of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant than indicated in the absence of an opioid, and titrate based on clinical response. If an opioid analgesic is initiated in a patient already taking a benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant, prescribe a lower initial dose of the opioid analgesic, and titrate based on clinical response. Follow patients closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

Advise both patients and caregivers about the risks of respiratory depression and sedation when pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is used with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (including alcohol and illicit drugs). Advise patients not to drive or operate heavy machinery until the effects of concomitant use of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant have been determined.

Screen patients for risk of substance use disorders, including opioid abuse and misuse, and warn them of the risk for overdose and death associated with the use of additional CNS depressants including alcohol and illicit drugs.

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects, including death (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#) and [8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview, Sedation](#), and [9.2 Drug Interactions Overview, Interactions with Central Nervous Systems \(CNS\) Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#)).



Severe pain antagonizes the subjective and respiratory depressant actions of opioid analgesics. Should pain suddenly subside, these effects may rapidly become manifest.

### ***Use in Patients with Convulsive or Seizure Disorders***

The morphine in pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR may aggravate convulsions in patients with convulsive disorders and may induce or aggravate seizures in some clinical settings. Therefore, morphine should not be used in these patients (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

Morphine may lower the seizure threshold in patients with a history of epilepsy.

### ***Serotonin toxicity / Serotonin syndrome***

Serotonin toxicity also known as serotonin syndrome is a potentially life-threatening condition and has been reported with morphine, including morphine sulfate, particularly during combined use with other serotonergic drugs (see [9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions, Serotonergic Agents](#)).

Serotonin toxicity is characterised by neuromuscular excitation, autonomic stimulation (e.g. tachycardia, flushing) and altered mental state (e.g. anxiety, agitation, hypomania). In accordance with the Hunter Criteria, serotonin toxicity diagnosis is likely when, in the presence of at least one serotonergic agent, one of the following is observed:

- Spontaneous clonus
- Inducible clonus or ocular clonus with agitation or diaphoresis
- Tremor and hyperreflexia
- Hypertonia and body temperature >38°C and ocular clonus or inducible clonus.

If concomitant treatment with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR and other serotonergic agents is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised, particularly during treatment initiation and dose increases (see [9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions, Serotonergic Agents](#)). If serotonin toxicity is suspected, discontinuation of the serotonergic agents should be considered.

### ***Head Injury***

The respiratory depressant effects of morphine, and the capacity to elevate cerebrospinal fluid pressure, may be greatly increased in the presence of an already elevated intracranial pressure produced by trauma. Opioid analgesics, including morphine may produce confusion, miosis, vomiting and other side effects which obscure the clinical course of patients with head injury. In such patients, morphine should not be used (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

### ***Opioid-induced hyperalgesia***

Opioid induced hyperalgesia (OIH) is a paradoxical response to an opioid in which there is an increase in pain perception despite stable or increased opioid exposure. It differs from tolerance, in which higher opioid doses are required to achieve the same analgesic effect or treat recurring pain. Clinically, OIH may be associated with high opioid doses, long term opioid treatment, and intra-operative opioid use. OIH may manifest as an unexplained increase in

pain, more diffuse pain than pre-existing, or as pain from ordinary (i.e. non-painful) stimuli (allodynia) in the absence of disease progression. When OIH is suspected, the dose of opioid should be reduced or tapered off, if possible. It is reasonable to consider opioid rotation, or the use of a non-opioid strategy for pain control. There is currently no well-established treatment for OIH.

### **Peri-Operative Considerations**

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is not indicated for pre-emptive analgesia (administration pre-operatively for the management of post-operative pain).

In the case of planned chordotomy or other pain-relieving operations, patients should not be treated with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR for at least 24 hours before the operation and pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be used in the immediate post-operative period.

Physicians should individualize treatment, moving from parenteral to oral analgesics as appropriate. Thereafter, if pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is to be continued after the patient recovers from the post-operative period, a new dosage should be administered in accordance with the changed need for pain relief. The risk of withdrawal in opioid-tolerant patients should be addressed as clinically indicated.

The administration of analgesics in the peri-operative period should be managed by healthcare providers with adequate training and experience (e.g., by an anesthesiologist).

Morphine and other morphine-like opioids has been shown to decrease bowel motility. Ileus is a common post-operative complication, especially after intra-abdominal surgery with opioid analgesia. Caution should be taken to monitor for decreased bowel motility in post-operative patients receiving opioids. Standard supportive therapy should be implemented.

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be used in the early post-operative period (12 to 24 hours post-surgery) unless the patient is ambulatory and gastrointestinal function is normal.

### **Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential**

- **Fertility**

Long-term use of opioids may be associated with decreased sex hormone levels and symptoms such as low libido, erectile dysfunction, or infertility (see [8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions](#)).

- **Teratogenic Risk**

- Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)

Prolonged maternal use of opioid during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the

neonate. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, may be life-threatening.

Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome presents as irritability, hyperactivity and abnormal sleep pattern, high pitched cry, tremor, vomiting, diarrhea and failure to gain weight. The onset, duration, and severity of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome vary based on the specific opioid used, duration of use, timing and amount of last maternal use, and rate of elimination of the drug by the newborn.

Use of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is contraindicated in pregnant women (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

## **Respiratory**

### ***Respiratory Depression***

Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression has been reported with the use of opioids, even when used as recommended. Respiratory depression from opioid use, if not immediately recognized and treated, may lead to respiratory arrest and death. Management of respiratory depression may include close observation, supportive measures, and use of opioid antagonists, depending on the patient's clinical status. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) retention from opioid-induced respiratory depression can exacerbate the sedating effects of opioids. Morphine should be used with extreme caution in patients with substantially decreased respiratory reserve, pre-existing respiratory depression, hypoxia or hypercapnia (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

While serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression can occur at any time during the use of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, the risk is greatest during the initiation of therapy or following a dose increase. Patients should be closely monitored for respiratory depression when initiating therapy with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR and following dose increases. Life-threatening respiratory depression is more likely to occur in the elderly, cachectic, or debilitated patients because they may have altered pharmacokinetics or altered clearance compared to younger, healthier patients.

To reduce the risk of respiratory depression, proper dosing and titration of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR are essential. Overestimating the pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR dose when converting patients from another opioid product can result in a fatal overdose with the first dose. In these patients, the use of non-opioid analgesics should be considered, if feasible (see [7.1 Special Populations, Special Risk Groups](#), and [4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment](#)).

### ***Use in Patients with Chronic Pulmonary Disease***

Monitor patients with significant chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or cor pulmonale, and patients having a substantially decreased respiratory reserve, hypoxia, hypercapnia, or preexisting respiratory depression for respiratory depression, particularly when initiating therapy and titrating with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, as in these patients, even usual

therapeutic doses of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR may decrease respiratory drive to the point of apnea. In these patients, use of alternative non-opioid analgesics should be considered, if possible. The use of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is contraindicated in patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive airway, or status asthmaticus (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

### ***Sleep Apnea***

Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders such as sleep apnea syndromes (including central sleep apnea [CSA]) and hypoxia (including sleep -related hypoxia). Opioid use increases the risk of CSA in a dose-dependent fashion. Evaluate patients on an ongoing basis for the onset of a new sleep apnea, or a worsening of an existing sleep apnea. In these patients, consider reducing or stopping the opioid treatment if appropriate, using best practices for tapering of opioids (see [4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment](#)).

### ***Acute Chest Syndrome (ACS) in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)***

Due to a possible association between ACS and morphine use in SCD patients treated with morphine during a vaso-occlusive crisis, close monitoring for ACS symptoms is warranted.

## **7.1 Special Populations**

### **Special Risk Groups**

Morphine should be administered with caution to patients with a history of alcohol, seizures, and drug abuse and in a reduced dosage to elderly or debilitated patients, patients with reduced hepatic function or severe renal dysfunction, and in patients with severely impaired pulmonary function, Addison's disease, biliary tract disorders, hypotension with hypovolaemia, hypothyroidism, myxedema, toxic psychosis, prostatic hypertrophy or urethral stricture.

The administration of opioid analgesics, including morphine, may obscure the diagnosis or clinical course in patients with acute abdominal conditions.

Opioid analgesics including morphine should also be used with caution in patients about to undergo surgery of the biliary tract, since it may cause spasm of the sphincter of Oddi.

#### **7.1.1 Pregnant Women**

Studies in humans have not been conducted. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR crosses the placental barrier and is contraindicated in pregnant women (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

Prolonged maternal use of opioids during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the neonate. Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS), unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, can be life-threatening (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential, Teratogenic Risk, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome \(NOWS\)](#), and [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions](#)).

Pregnant women using opioids should not discontinue their medication abruptly as this can cause pregnancy complications such as miscarriage or still-birth. Tapering should be slow and under medical supervision to avoid serious adverse events to the fetus.

### **7.1.2 Breast-feeding**

Since opioids can cross the placental barrier and are excreted in breast milk, pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is contraindicated in nursing women during labour and delivery. Life-threatening respiratory depression can occur in the infant if opioids are administered to the mother. Naloxone, a drug that counters the effects of opiates, should be readily available if pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is used in this population.

### **7.1.3 Pediatrics (<18 years of age)**

The safety and efficacy of morphine sulfate have not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

### **7.1.4 Geriatrics (>65 years of age)**

In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range and titrated slowly, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy (see [4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment](#) and [10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics](#)).

Patients over the age of 50 years of age tend to require much lower doses of morphine than in the younger age group. Morphine should be administered with caution and in a reduced dosage to elderly or debilitated patients. The initial dose should be one half the usual recommended dose.

## **8 ADVERSE REACTIONS**

### **8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview**

Adverse effects of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR are similar to those of other opioid analgesics, and represent an extension of pharmacological effects of the drug class. The major hazards associated with opioids include respiratory and central nervous system depression and, to a lesser degree, circulatory depression, respiratory arrest, shock and cardiac arrest.

The most frequently observed side effects of morphine sulfate are constipation, dizziness, hyperhidrosis, nausea, sedation, and vomiting.

### **Sedation**

Sedation is a common side effect of opioid analgesics, especially in opioid naïve individuals. Sedation may also occur partly because patients often recuperate from prolonged fatigue after the relief of persistent pain. Most patients develop tolerance to the sedative effects of opioids within three to five days and, if the sedation is not severe, will not require any treatment except reassurance. If excessive sedation persists beyond a few days, the dose of the opioid should be reduced and alternate causes investigated. Some of these are: concurrent CNS depressant medication, hepatic or renal dysfunction, brain metastases, hypercalcemia and respiratory failure. If it is necessary to reduce the dose, it can be carefully increased again after three or four days if it is obvious that the pain is not being well controlled. Dizziness and unsteadiness may be caused by postural hypotension, particularly in elderly or debilitated patients, and may be alleviated if the patient lies down. Because of the slower clearance in patients over 50 years of age, an appropriate dose in this age group may be as low as half or less the usual dose in the younger age group.

### **Nausea and Vomiting**

Nausea is a common side effect on initiation of therapy with opioid analgesics and is thought to occur by activation of the chemoreceptor trigger zone, stimulation of the vestibular apparatus and through delayed gastric emptying. The prevalence of nausea declines following continued treatment with opioid analgesics. When instituting therapy with an opioid for chronic pain, the routine prescription of an antiemetic should be considered. In the cancer patient, investigation of nausea should include such causes as constipation, bowel obstruction, uremia, hypercalcemia, hepatomegaly, tumor invasion of celiac plexus, and concurrent use of drugs with emetogenic properties. Persistent nausea which does not respond to dosage reduction may be caused by opioid-induced gastric stasis and may be accompanied by other symptoms including anorexia, early satiety, vomiting and abdominal fullness. These symptoms respond to chronic treatment with gastrointestinal prokinetic agents.

### **Constipation**

Practically all patients become constipated while taking opioids on a persistent basis. In some patients, particularly the elderly or bedridden, fecal impaction may result. It is essential to caution the patients in this regard and to institute an appropriate regimen of bowel management at the start of prolonged opioid therapy. Stimulant laxatives, stool softeners, and other appropriate measures should be used as required. As fecal impaction may present as overflow diarrhea, the presence of constipation should be excluded in patients on opioid therapy prior to initiating treatment for diarrhea.

## 8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. The adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials; therefore, may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse reaction information from clinical trials may be useful for identifying and approximating rates of adverse drug reactions in real-world use.

The following adverse effects occur with morphine sulfate and opioid analgesics. The reactions are categorized by body system and frequency according to the following definitions: Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ); (Common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ); Uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ ); Rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ ); Very rare ( $< 1/10,000$ ), Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

### **General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions:**

*Common:* asthenia, fatigue, malaise, pruritus, weakness, sedation

*Uncommon:* peripheral edema

*Not known:* drug tolerance, drug withdrawal syndrome, drug withdrawal syndrome neonatal

### **Cardiac Disorders:**

*Rare:* faintness, palpitations

*Unknown:* supraventricular tachycardia, bradycardia

### **Ear and Labyrinth Disorders:**

*Uncommon:* vertigo

### **Endocrine Disorders:**

*Unknown:* a syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion characterized by hyponatraemia secondary to decreased free-water excretion may be prominent (monitoring of electrolytes may be necessary)

### **Eye Disorders:**

*Uncommon:* visual disturbance

*Not known:* miosis

### **Gastrointestinal Disorders:**

*Very common:* constipation, nausea

*Common:* abdominal pain, anorexia, dry mouth, vomiting

*Uncommon:* dyspepsia, ileus, taste perversion

### **Hepato-biliary Disorders:**

*Uncommon:* increased hepatic enzyme

*Not known:* biliary pain, exacerbation of pancreatitis, sphincter of Oddi dysfunction

**Immune System Disorders:**

*Uncommon:* hypersensitivity

*Not known:* anaphylactic reaction, anaphylactoid reaction

**Nervous System Disorders:**

*Common:* dizziness, headache, involuntary muscle contractions, somnolence

*Uncommon:* convulsions, hypertonia, paraesthesia, syncope, myoclonus

*Not known:* allodynia, hyperalgesia, obstructive sleep apnea syndrome

**Psychiatric Disorders:**

*Common:* confusion, insomnia

*Uncommon:* agitation, euphoria, hallucinations, mood altered

*Not known:* drug dependence, dysphoria, thinking disturbances

**Renal and Urinary Disorders:**

*Uncommon:* urinary retention

*Not known:* ureteric spasm

**Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders:**

*Uncommon:* bronchospasm, pulmonary edema, respiratory depression

*Not known:* cough decreased

**Reproductive System and Breast Disorders:**

*Not known:* amenorrhoea, decreased libido, erectile dysfunction

**Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders:**

*Common:* hyperhidrosis, rash

*Uncommon:* urticaria

**Vascular Disorders:**

*Uncommon:* facial flushing, hypotension

*Not known:* hypertension

## 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of morphine. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

**Adrenal insufficiency:** Cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported with opioid use, more often following greater than one month of use (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Endocrine and Metabolism](#)).



**Androgen deficiency:** Chronic use of opioids may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary- gonadal axis, leading to androgen deficiency that may manifest as low libido, impotence, erectile dysfunction, amenorrhea, or infertility. The causal role of opioids in the clinical syndrome of hypogonadism is unknown because the various medical, physical, lifestyle, and psychological stressors that may influence gonadal hormone levels have not been adequately controlled for in studies conducted to date. Patients presenting with symptoms of androgen deficiency should undergo laboratory evaluation.

**Serotonin syndrome:** Cases of serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition, have been reported during concomitant use of opioids with serotonergic drugs.

There have also been post-marketing reports of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) in patients treated with hydromorphone (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential, Teratogenic Risk, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome \(NOWS\)](#)).

## 9 DRUG INTERACTIONS

### 9.1 Serious Drug Interactions

- Risks from concomitant use of opioids and benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic, Interactions with CNS Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#))
  - Reserve concomitant prescribing of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate
  - Consider dose reduction of CNS depressants in situations of concomitant prescribing
  - Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation
- MAO inhibitors intensify the effects of opioid drugs which can cause anxiety, confusion and decreased respiration. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is contraindicated in patients receiving MAO inhibitors or who have used them within the previous 14 days.

## 9.2 Drug Interactions Overview

### ***Interactions with Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol)***

Due to additive pharmacologic effect, the concomitant use of benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (e.g. other opioids, sedatives/hypnotics, antidepressants, anxiolytics, tranquilizers, muscle relaxants, general anesthetics, antipsychotics, phenothiazines, neuroleptics, antihistamines, antiemetics, gabapentin, pregabalin, baclofen, and alcohol) and beta-blockers, increases the risk of respiratory depression, profound sedation, coma, and death. Reserve concomitant prescribing of these drugs for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate. Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required. Monitor patients closely for signs of respiratory depression and sedation (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic, Interactions with CNS Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#) and [Driving and Operating Machinery](#)). pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects.

## 9.3 Drug-Behavioural Interactions

The concomitant use of alcohol should be avoided (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, General](#) and [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic, Interactions with CNS Depressants \(including benzodiazepines and alcohol\)](#)).

## 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions

Generally, the effects of morphine may be antagonized by acidifying agents and potentiated by alkalinizing agents. The analgesic effect of morphine is potentiated by amphetamines, chlorpromazine and methocarbamol.

**Warfarin and Other Coumarin Anticoagulants:** Morphine may increase the anticoagulant activity of coumarin and other anticoagulants.

**Administration with Mixed Activity Agonist/Antagonist Opioids:** Mixed agonist/antagonist opioid analgesics (i.e., pentazocine, nalbuphine, butorphanol, and buprenorphine) should be administered with caution to a patient who has received or is receiving a course of therapy with a pure opioid agonist analgesic such as morphine. In this situation, mixed agonist/antagonist analgesics may reduce the analgesic effect of morphine and/or may precipitate withdrawal symptoms in these patients.

**MAO Inhibitors:** Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAO) intensify the effects of opioid drugs which can cause anxiety, confusion and decreased respiration. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is contraindicated in patients receiving MAO Inhibitors or who have taken them within the previous 14 days (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

**Serotonergic Agents:** Coadministration of morphine sulfate with a serotonergic agent, such as a

Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitor (SSRI) or a Serotonin Norepinephrine Re-uptake Inhibitor (SNRI), may increase the risk of serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic, Serotonin toxicity/Serotonin syndrome](#)).

### **9.5 Drug-Food Interactions**

Interactions with food have not been established.

### **9.6 Drug-Herb Interactions**

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

### **9.7 Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions**

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

## **10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

### **10.1 Mechanism of Action**

Morphine is an opioid analgesic which exerts an agonist effect at specific, saturable opioid receptors in the CNS and other tissues. In man, morphine produces a variety of effects including analgesia, constipation from decreased gastrointestinal motility, suppression of the cough reflex, respiratory depression from reduced responsiveness of the respiratory centre to CO<sub>2</sub>, nausea and vomiting via stimulation of the CTZ, changes in mood including euphoria and dysphoria, sedation, mental clouding, and alterations of the endocrine and autonomic nervous systems.

### **10.2 Pharmacodynamics**

Morphine is an opioid agonist. Adequate doses will relieve even the most severe pain. Clinically however, dosage limitations are imposed by the adverse effects, primarily respiratory depression, nausea and vomiting, which can result from high doses.

#### **Cardiovascular System**

Morphine may produce release of histamine with or without associated peripheral vasodilation. Manifestations of histamine release and/or peripheral vasodilation may include pruritus, flushing, red eyes, sweating, and/or orthostatic hypotension.

#### **Central Nervous System**

In humans, the principal pharmacological actions of morphine are in the CNS; analgesia, drowsiness, mood changes, mental clouding, respiratory depression, nausea or emesis and

miosis.

Morphine produces respiratory depression by direct action on brain stem respiratory centres. The respiratory depression involves both a reduction in the responsiveness of the brain stem centres to increases in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) tension and to electrical stimulation.

Morphine depresses the cough reflex by direct effect on the cough centre in the medulla. Antitussive effects may occur with doses lower than those usually required for analgesia.

Morphine causes miosis, even in total darkness. Pinpoint pupils are a sign of narcotic overdose but are not pathognomonic (e.g., pontine lesions of hemorrhagic or ischemic origin may produce similar findings). Marked mydriasis rather than miosis may be seen with hypoxia in the setting of morphine overdose.

### **Endocrine System**

Opioids, such as morphine sulfate may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal or -gonadal axes. Some changes that can be seen include an increase in serum prolactin, and decreases in plasma cortisol and testosterone. Clinical signs and symptoms may be manifest from these hormonal changes.

### **Gastrointestinal Tract and Other Smooth Muscle**

Morphine causes a reduction in motility associated with an increase in smooth muscle tone in the antrum of the stomach and duodenum. Digestion of food in the small intestine is delayed and propulsive contractions are decreased. Propulsive peristaltic waves in the colon are decreased, while tone is increased to the point of spasm resulting in constipation. Other opioid-induced effects may include a reduction in gastric, biliary and pancreatic secretions, spasm of the sphincter of Oddi, and transient elevations in serum amylase.

### **Hepatobiliary System**

Opioids may induce spasm of the sphincter of Oddi.

### **Immune System**

*In vitro* and animal studies indicate that opioids have a variety of effects on immune functions, depending on the context in which they are used. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

### **Concentration – Efficacy Relationships**

Morphine induced analgesia is a result of increases in both the pain threshold and pain tolerance. Morphine alters the affective response to pain in that patients remain aware of its existence but are less distressed. Morphine relieves most types of pain but is more effective against dull constant pains than sharp intermittent ones.

### **Concentration – Adverse Reaction Relationship**

There is a significant relationship between increasing morphine plasma concentrations and

increasing frequency of dose-related opioid adverse reactions such as nausea, vomiting, CNS effects, and respiratory depression. In opioid-tolerant patients, the situation may be altered by the development of tolerance to opioid-related side effects.

The dose of pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR must be individualized (see [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION](#)) because the effective analgesic dose for some patients will be too high to be tolerated by other patients.

### 10.3 Pharmacokinetics

**Absorption:** Morphine is readily absorbed when given orally, rectally or by subcutaneous or intramuscular injection.

**Distribution:** Once absorbed, morphine is distributed to skeletal muscle, kidneys, liver, intestinal tract, lungs, spleen, and brain. The volume of distribution of morphine is approximately 3 to 4 L/kg. Morphine is 30 to 35% reversibly bound to plasma proteins. Although the primary site of action of morphine is in the CNS, only small quantities pass the blood-brain barrier. Morphine also crosses the placental membranes (see [7.1.1 Pregnant Women](#), and [7.1.2 Breast-feeding](#)) and has been found in breast milk.

**Metabolism:** Due to first-pass metabolism in the liver, the effect of an oral dose is less than after parenteral administration. With repeated regular dosing, oral morphine is about 1/3 as potent as when given by intramuscular injection. Major pathways of morphine metabolism include glucuronidation in the liver to produce metabolites including morphine-3-glucuronide, M3G (about 50%) and morphine-6-glucuronide, M6G (about 5 to 15%) and sulfation in the liver to produce morphine-3-etheral sulfate. A small fraction (less than 5%) of morphine is demethylated. M3G has no significant contribution to the analgesic activity. Although M6G does not readily cross the blood-brain barrier, it has been shown to have opioid agonist and analgesic activity in humans.

**Elimination:** Morphine is primarily excreted in the urine as morphine-3-glucuronide. Formation of glucuronidated metabolites is less following rectal administration compared to oral administration. About 7% to 10% of a dose of morphine is excreted in the feces via the bile.

#### Special Populations and Conditions

**Pediatrics (<18 years of age):** Individuals under 18 years of age should not take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

**Geriatrics (>65 years of age):** In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, 7.1 Special Populations, 7.1.4 Geriatrics](#)).

**Hepatic Insufficiency:** The pharmacokinetics of morphine was found to be significantly altered in individuals with alcoholic cirrhosis. The clearance was found to decrease with a corresponding increase in half-life. M3G and M6G to morphine plasma AUC ratios also decreased in these patients, indicating a decrease in metabolic activity. Adequate studies of the pharmacokinetics of morphine in patients with severe hepatic impairment have not been conducted (see [4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Patients with Hepatic Impairment](#) and [7.1 Special Populations](#)).

**Renal Insufficiency:** The pharmacokinetics of morphine are altered in patients with renal failure. The AUC is increased and clearance is decreased. Metabolites, M3G and M6G, accumulate several-fold in patients with renal failure compared to healthy subjects. Adequate studies of the pharmacokinetics of morphine in patients with severe renal impairment have not been conducted (see [4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Patients with Renal Impairment](#) and [7.1 Special Populations](#)).

## 11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL

Store pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR tablets at room temperature (15 – 30°C) in a dry place.

### Disposal

**pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should never be disposed of in household trash.** Disposal via a pharmacy take back program is recommended. Unused or expired pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should be properly disposed of as soon as it is no longer needed to prevent accidental exposure to others, including children or pets.

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be shared with others and steps should be taken to protect it from theft or misuse. The patient should speak to their pharmacist about temporary storage options, if required, until the medication can be returned to the pharmacy for safe disposal.

## 12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should be kept in a safe place, such as under lock and out of the sight and reach of children before, during and after use. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should not be used in front of children, since they may copy these actions.

## PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### 13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

#### Drug Substance

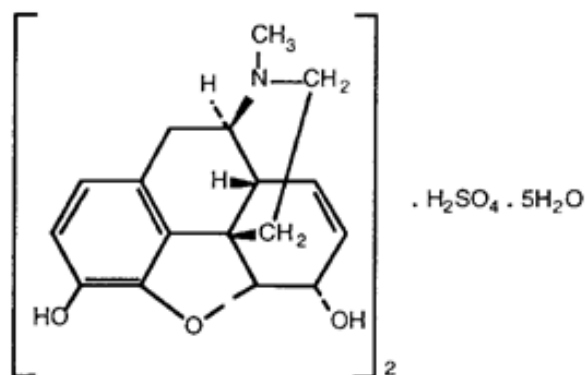
Proper name: Morphine sulfate

Chemical name: 7,8-didehydro-4,5  $\alpha$ -epoxy-17-methyl-morphinan-3, 6 $\alpha$ -diol sulfate (2:1) (salt) pentahydrate

Molecular formula:  $(C_{17}H_{19}NO_3) \cdot H_2SO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$

Molecular mass: 668.76 g / mol (anhydrous), 758.8 g / mol (pentahydrate)

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: White or almost white crystalline powder. Soluble in water, very slightly soluble in ethanol (96%) and practically insoluble in toluene. Insoluble in chloroform, and ether.

## 14 CLINICAL TRIALS

The clinical trial data on which the original indication was authorized is not available.

### 14.2 Comparative Bioavailability Studies

A randomized, two-way, single-dose crossover comparative bioavailability study of Npms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR 30 mg tablets (Pharmascience Inc.) and NMS-IR® 30 mg tablets (Purdue Pharma) was conducted in healthy, adult, male and female subjects under fasting conditions. Comparative bioavailability data from the 29 subjects that were included in the statistical analysis are presented in the following table.

**SUMMARY TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE BIOAVAILABILITY DATA**

Morphine (1 × 30 mg) Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV%)				
Parameter	Test <sup>1</sup>	Reference <sup>2</sup>	% Ratio of Geometric Means	90 % Confidence Interval
AUC <sub>T</sub> (ng·h/mL)	101.75 105.29 (25.28)	99.75 103.25 (26.06)	102.0	97.5 – 106.8
AUC <sub>I</sub> (ng·h/mL)	121.40 126.12 (30.77)	120.35 123.49 (38.16)	100.9	90.1 – 113.0
C <sub>MAX</sub> (ng/mL)	46.06 50.03 (38.55)	46.07 50.32 (40.81)	99.7	87.3 – 114.5
T <sub>MAX</sub> <sup>3</sup> (h)	0.50 (0.23 – 1.25)	0.50 (0.25 – 1.00)		
T <sub>½</sub> <sup>4</sup> (h)	13.97 (55.32)	13.85 (73.16)		

1 Npms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR tablets, 30 mg (Pharmascience Inc.)

2 NMS-IR® (morphine sulfate) tablets, 30 mg (Purdue Pharma)

3 Expressed as the median (range) only

4 Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only



## 15 MICROBIOLOGY

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

## 16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### *General Toxicology:*

#### Animal

**Table 3 – Morphine lethal dose toxicity values in animals**

<b>Acute</b>	<b>Oral LD<sub>50</sub></b>
Mice	650 mg/kg
Rats	460 mg/kg
Guinea Pigs	1000 mg/kg

Morphine toxicity varies considerably from species to species. In some species, relatively low doses of morphine cause hypothermia and gross excitation. In the rat, for example, doses suitable for analgesia also affect a continually restless and seemingly frightened state. These effects are antagonized by naloxone and are prevented by phenytoin.

#### Human

Morphine toxicity may result from overdose but because of the great inter-individual variation in sensitivity to opioids it is difficult to determine an exact dose of any opioid that is toxic or lethal.

The presence of pain or tolerance tends to diminish the toxic effects of morphine. Published data suggests that in a morphine naive, pain-free individual, the lethal oral dose would be in excess of 120 mg. Patients on chronic oral morphine therapy have been known to take in excess of 3000 mg/day with no apparent toxicity.

## 17 SUPPORTING PRODUCT MONOGRAPHS

1. NMS•IR® Immediate Release Tablets, 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg, submission control 274480, Product Monograph, Purdue Pharma. DEC 11, 2023.

## PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

### READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

#### **Npms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR (Morphine Sulfate Immediate Release Tablets)**

Read this carefully before you start taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

#### **Serious Warnings and Precautions**

- Even if you take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR as prescribed you are at risk for opioid addiction, abuse and misuse. This can lead to overdose and death. To understand your risk of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse you should speak to your prescriber (e.g., healthcare professional).
- When you take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR tablets they must be swallowed whole. Do not cut, break, crush, chew, or dissolve the tablet. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.
- Life-threatening breathing problems can happen while taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, especially if not taken as directed. Babies are at risk of life-threatening breathing problems if their mothers take opioids while pregnant or nursing.
- Never give anyone your pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. They could die from taking it. If a person has not been prescribed pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, taking even one dose can cause a fatal overdose. This is especially true for children.
- If you took pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR while you were pregnant, whether for short or long periods of time or in small or large doses, your baby can suffer life-threatening withdrawal symptoms after birth. This can occur in the days after birth and for up to 4 weeks after delivery. If your baby has any of the following symptoms:
  - has changes in their breathing (such as weak, difficult or fast breathing)
  - is unusually difficult to comfort
  - has tremors (shakiness)
  - has increased stools, sneezing, yawning, vomiting, or feverSeek immediate medical help for your baby.
- Taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR with other opioid medicines, benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other central nervous system depressants (including street drugs) can cause severe drowsiness, decreased awareness, breathing problems, coma, and death.

**What is pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR used for?**

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is a medicine used to manage your pain.

**How does pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR work?**

pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR is a painkiller belonging to the class of medicine known as opioids. It relieves pain by acting on specific nerve cells of the spinal cord and brain.

**What are the ingredients in pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR?**

Medicinal ingredient: morphine sulfate

Non-medicinal ingredients: Calcium carbonate (10 mg), Croscarmellose sodium, FD&C Blue no. 2/Indigo carmine aluminium lake (5 mg, 10 mg), Iron oxide yellow (5 mg), Lactose monohydrate, Magnesium stearate, Microcrystalline cellulose, Polyethylene glycol, Polyvinyl alcohol, Talc and Titanium dioxide.

**pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR comes in the following dosage forms:**

Immediate Release Tablets: 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg.

**Do not use pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR if:**

- your healthcare professional did not prescribe it for you
- you are allergic to morphine, or any of the other ingredients in pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR
- you can control your pain by the occasional use of other pain medications. This includes those available without a prescription
- you have severe asthma, trouble breathing, or other breathing problems
- you have any heart problems
- you have bowel blockage or narrowing of the stomach or intestines
- you have severe pain in your abdomen (for example, from appendicitis or pancreatitis)
- you have increased pressure in your skull, have a head injury or a brain tumour.
- you have or have had a history of epilepsy
- you suffer from alcoholism or alcohol withdrawal
- you are taking or have taken within the past 2 weeks a Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor (MAOI) (such as phenelzine sulfate, tranylcypromine sulfate, moclobemide or selegiline)
- you are going to have a surgery or operation, or have had a surgery in the last 24 hours
- you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant or you are in labour or delivery
- you are breastfeeding

**To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:**

- have a history of illicit or prescription drug or alcohol abuse.
- have kidney or liver problems.
- have sickle cell disease.
- have a sleep disorder which causes pauses in breathing or shallow breathing while sleeping

(sleep apnea).

- have low blood pressure.
- have or have had problems with your mood (such as depression or anxiety), hallucinations, or other mental health problems.
- suffer from chronic or severe constipation.
- Have a history of pancreas or gall bladder problems.
- have problems with your thyroid, adrenal or prostate gland.
- have difficulty urinating.
- are over 50 years of age.
- have a condition that causes weakness or frailty.
- have circulatory problems (e.g. body does not get enough oxygen and nutrients to function properly due to lack of blood flow).
- are planning on drinking alcohol. Drinking alcohol while taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR may cause dangerous side effects, including death. Do not drink alcohol while taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.
- take hypnotics, centrally acting analgesics, opioids, or psychotropic medicines. Ask your healthcare professional if you are unsure.

#### **Other warnings you should know about:**

##### ***Opioid dependence and addiction***

Like any opioid, pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR may cause mental and physical dependence. Morphine sulfate also has the potential to cause addiction. There are important differences between physical dependence and addiction. Tolerance means that, over time, a higher dose may be needed to get the same level of pain relief. It is important that you talk to your healthcare professional if you have questions or concerns about addiction, physical dependence, or tolerance. Your healthcare professional should prescribe and administer pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR with the same degree of caution appropriate to the use of other oral opioid medications. It is not recommended to use these products for a long period of time.

##### ***Pregnancy, nursing, labour and delivery***

Do not use pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR while pregnant, nursing, during labour or delivery. Opioids can be transferred to your baby through breast milk, or while still in the womb. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR can then cause life-threatening breathing problems in your unborn baby or nursing infant.

If you are pregnant and are taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, it is important that you don't stop taking your medication all of a sudden. If you do, it can cause a miscarriage or a still-birth. Your healthcare professional will monitor and guide you on how to slowly stop taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. This may help avoid serious harm to your unborn baby.

##### ***Driving and using machines***

Before you do tasks which may require special attention, you should wait until you know how

you react to pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR can cause:

- drowsiness
- dizziness or
- light headedness

This can usually occur after you take your first dose and when your dose is increased.

### ***Disorder of the adrenal gland***

You may develop a disorder of the adrenal gland called adrenal insufficiency. This means that your adrenal gland is not making enough of certain hormones. You may experience symptoms such as:

- nausea, vomiting
- feeling tired, weak or dizzy
- decreased appetite

You may be more likely to have problems with your adrenal gland if you have been taking opioids for longer than one month. Your healthcare professional may do tests, give you another medication, and slowly take you off pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

***Serotonin toxicity (also known as serotonin syndrome):*** pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR can cause serotonin syndrome, a rare but potentially life-threatening condition. It can cause serious changes in how your brain, muscles and digestive system work. You may develop serotonin syndrome if you take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR with certain anti-depressants or migraine medications.

Serotonin syndrome symptoms include:

- fever, sweating, shivering, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting;
- muscle shakes, jerks, twitches or stiffness, overactive reflexes, loss of coordination;
- fast heartbeat, changes in blood pressure;
- confusion, agitation, restlessness, hallucinations, mood changes, unconsciousness, and coma.

### ***Sexual Function/Reproduction***

Long term use of opioids may lead to a decrease in sex hormone levels. It may also lead to low libido (desire to have sex), erectile dysfunction or being infertile.

### ***Sleep apnea***

Opioids can cause a problem called sleep apnea (stopping breathing from time to time while sleeping). Tell your healthcare professional if you have a history of sleep apnea or if anyone notices that you stop breathing from time to time while sleeping.

### ***Worsened pain***

Taking opioids for pain can sometimes have the unintended effect of making your pain feel worse (opioid-induced hyperalgesia) even though your opioid dose has been unchanged or

increased. This can also include feeling pain in new places in your body, or feeling pain from something that would not normally hurt, for example, feeling pain from clothing touching your skin. Tell your doctor if you notice a change like this in your pain while you are taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

**Testing and check-ups:** Your healthcare professional will regularly monitor you for signs of misuse and abuse.

See the **Serious side effects and what to do about them** table for more information on these and other serious side effects.

**Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.**

#### **Serious Drug Interactions**

Serious drug interactions with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR include:

- benzodiazepines used to help you sleep or that help reduce anxiety.
- central nervous system (CNS) depressants used to slow down the nervous system. These can include:
  - other opioids used to relieve pain (e.g., methadone, pentazocine, nalbuphine, butorphanol, buprenorphine);
  - hypnotics used to help with sleeping;
  - antidepressants used for depression and mood disorders (e.g., fluoxetine, citalopram, venlafaxine; tricyclic antidepressants such as amitriptyline, imipramine, maprotiline, paroxetine; serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors [SNRIs]; and selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors [SSRIs] such as St. John's Wort);
  - anxiolytics, tranquilizers, and phenothiazines used to treat mental or emotional disorders;
  - muscle relaxants used to treat muscle spasms and back pain (e.g., baclofen);
  - general anaesthetics used during surgery;
  - antipsychotics and neuroleptics used to treat mental health disorders (e.g., chlorpromazine, pimozide, haloperidol, droperidol, ziprasidone, and risperidone);
  - antihistamines used to treat allergies;
  - antiemetics used to prevent nausea or vomiting (e.g., domperidone, granisetron, dolasetron, and ondansetron);
  - sedatives which may enhance the drowsiness;
  - pregabalin, used to treat nerve pain;
  - gabapentin, used to prevent and control seizures in the treatment of epilepsy
  - beta blockers used to lower blood pressure;
  - alcohol. This includes prescription and non-prescription medications that contain alcohol. Do not drink alcohol while you are taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. It can lead to drowsiness, usually slow or weak breathing, serious side effects, or a fatal overdose.
- monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) used to treat depression. Do not take pms-

MORPHINE SULFATE IR with MAOIs or if you have taken MAOIs in the last 14 days.

**The following may also interact with pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR:**

- anticonvulsants (used to treat seizures)
- anticoagulants, used to thin the blood and prevent blood clots (e.g., warfarin and other coumatins)
- drugs used to treat migraines (e.g. triptans)

If you are unsure about the medications you are taking, ask your healthcare professional.

**How to take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR:**

Take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR tablets:

- regularly, usually every 4 to 6 hours, as directed by your healthcare professional
- with a full glass of water

**Swallow whole. Do not cut, break, crush, chew or dissolve the tablet. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.**

**Usual dose:** Your dose is tailored/personalized just for you. Be sure to follow your healthcare professional's dosing instructions exactly. Do not increase or decrease your dose without consulting your healthcare professional.

Your healthcare professional will prescribe the lowest dose that works to control your pain. It is recommended that you only take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR for up to 7 days. If you need to take pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR for longer, your healthcare professional will determine the best dose for you to lower the risk of side effects and overdose. Higher doses can lead to more side effects and a greater chance of overdose.

Review your pain regularly with your healthcare professional to determine if you still need pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. Be sure to use pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

If your pain increases or you develop any side effect as a result of taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, tell your healthcare professional immediately.

**Stopping your Medication**

If you have been taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR for more than a few days you should not stop taking it all of a sudden. Your healthcare professional will monitor and guide you on how to slowly stop taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. You should do it slowly to avoid uncomfortable symptoms such as having:

- body aches
- diarrhea
- goosebumps

- loss of appetite
- nausea
- feeling nervous or restless
- runny nose
- sneezing
- tremors or shivering
- stomach cramps
- rapid heart rate (tachycardia)
- having trouble sleeping
- an unusual increase in sweating
- heart palpitations
- an unexplained fever
- weakness
- yawning

By reducing or stopping your opioid treatment, your body will become less used to opioids. If you start treatment again, you will need to start at the lowest dose. You may overdose if you restart at the last dose you took before you slowly stopped taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

**Refilling your Prescription for pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR:**

A new written prescription is required from your healthcare professional each time you need more pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. Therefore, it is important that you contact your healthcare professional before your current supply runs out.

Only obtain prescriptions for this medicine from the doctor in charge of your treatment. Do not seek prescriptions from other doctors unless you switch to another healthcare professional for your pain management.

**Overdose:**

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.
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Signs of overdose may include:

- unusually slow or weak breathing
- dizziness
- confusion
- extreme drowsiness
- muscle weakness, cramping, or aching
- shrinking or widening of the pupils
- lack of muscle shape and tone
- cold and clammy skin
- slow heart rate



- low blood pressure
- toxic leukoencephalopathy (a brain disorder affecting the brain’s white matter)

**Missed Dose:**

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss:

- **One dose:** Skip the missed dose and take your next dose as scheduled. Do not take two doses at once to make-up for a missed dose.
- **Several doses in a row:** Talk to your healthcare professional before restarting your medication.

**What are possible side effects from using pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR?**

These are not all the possible side effects you may feel when taking pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR. If you experience any side effects not listed here, contact your healthcare professional.

**Side effects may include:**

- drowsiness
- insomnia
- dizziness
- fainting
- nausea, vomiting, or a poor appetite
- dry mouth
- headache
- problems with vision
- weakness, uncoordinated muscle movement
- itching
- sweating
- constipation
- low sex drive, impotence (erectile dysfunction), infertility

Talk with your healthcare professional or pharmacist about ways to prevent constipation when you start using pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR.

<b>Serious side effects and what to do about them</b>			
<b>Symptom / effect</b>	<b>Talk to your healthcare professional</b>		<b>Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help</b>
	<b>Only if severe</b>	<b>In all cases</b>	
<b>UNCOMMON</b>			
<b>Seizures</b> (fits): uncontrollable shaking with or without loss of consciousness.			✓
<b>Hallucinations:</b> seeing or hearing things that are not there.			✓

<b>RARE</b>			
<b>Overdose:</b> hallucinations, confusion, inability to walk normally, slow or weak breathing, extreme sleepiness, sedation, or dizziness, floppy muscles/low muscle tone, cold and clammy skin.			✓
<b>Respiratory Depression:</b> slow, shallow or weak breathing.			✓
<b>Allergic Reaction:</b> rash, hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, difficulty swallowing or breathing			✓
<b>Bowel Blockage (impaction):</b> abdominal pain, severe constipation, nausea.			✓
<b>Withdrawal:</b> nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anxiety, shivering, cold and clammy skin, body aches, loss of appetite, sweating.		✓	
<b>Fast, Slow or Irregular Heartbeat:</b> heart palpitations.		✓	
<b>Hypotension</b> (Low Blood Pressure): dizziness, fainting, light-headedness.	✓		
<b>Serotonin toxicity</b> (also known as serotonin syndrome): a reaction which may cause feelings of agitation or restlessness, flushing, muscle twitching, involuntary eye movements, heavy sweating, high body temperature (>38°C), or rigid muscles.			✓
<b>UNKNOWN</b>			
<b>Disorder of the adrenal gland:</b> nausea, vomiting, anorexia, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, or low blood pressure.			✓
<b>Sleep apnea:</b> stop breathing for short periods during your normal nightly sleep.		✓	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, talk to your healthcare professional.

### **Reporting Side Effects**

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

### **Storage:**

- **Keep unused or expired pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR in a secure place to prevent theft, misuse or accidental exposure.**
- Store tablets at room temperature (15 – 30°C) in a dry place.
- **Keep pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR under lock, out of sight and reach of children and pets.**
- **Never take medicine in front of small children as they will want to copy you. Accidental ingestion by a child is dangerous and may result in death. If a child accidentally takes pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR, get emergency help right away.**

### **Disposal:**

**pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR should never be thrown into household trash, where children and pets may find it.** It should be returned to a pharmacy for proper disposal.

### **If you want more information about pms-MORPHINE SULFATE IR:**

- Talk to your healthcare professional.
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the manufacturer's website [www.pharmascience.com](http://www.pharmascience.com), or by calling 1-888-550-6060.

This leaflet was prepared by Pharmascience Inc.

Last Revised: JUL 9, 2024