

CAUTION: If you are not used to this dose of morphine, or have had a break from using, or especially if you have benzos or alcohol in your system, you are at increased risk of overdose. Don't inject alone; make sure there is someone with you who will:

- Remain conscious,
- Call an ambulance,
- Practice emergency overdose response if you show signs of overdose.
- It is a good idea to halve your shot or test-dose if you are at increased risk of OD.

If you have been experiencing any trouble removing the wax and harmful solids from MS Contin or other pills, NTAHC's NSP peer educators can give you well-researched, practical and confidential information that may help. It is not possible, however, to totally remove the risks involved in injecting pills intended for oral use. Stay Safe!

#### HELPFUL HINTS

- Removing the coloured outer coating is not enough. You need to follow the whole method to get rid of the wax.
- The secret is crushing the pill as finely as possible. Try crushing your pill on a glossy magazine cover with a spoon to get it really fine. (Some find this the best method).
- Don't cook it. If you do, the wax expands with the hot water, trapping some of your dope inside.
- Make sure you use enough cotton wool to soak up all the liquid. This is NOT a filtering method - a little blob of cotton wool will not work. Also, too much cotton wool will make it difficult to draw up the morphine.
- Morphine gives a prickle rush - inject slowly to make this less. It's not a dirty hit - just the way morphine works.
- Morphine has the same risks of overdose and dependence as heroin, so be careful.

## northern territory aids & hepatitis council



### DARWIN

46 Woods Street DARWIN NT 0800  
PO BOX 2826 DARWIN NT 0801  
T: 08 8944 7777  
Fx: 08 8944 7700  
E: info@ntahc.org.au

### ALICE SPRINGS

14 Railway Terrace ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870  
PO Box 2461 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871  
T : 08 8953 3172  
Fx: 08 8953 2925  
E : info@ntahc.org.au

### PALMERSTON

(NSP only)  
Palmerston Health Precinct.  
Cnr Temple Terrace & Roystonea Ave,  
PALMERSTON  
T: (08) 8931 3676  
F: (08) 8931 4070

 [www.ntahc.org.au](http://www.ntahc.org.au)

 [www.facebook.com/nt.harm.reduction](https://www.facebook.com/nt.harm.reduction)

 [www.youtube.com/user/NTAIDSHepCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/user/NTAIDSHepCouncil)

 Hep C Support Line (NT) - 1800 464 404

# INJECTING MS CONTIN



MS Contin, a sustained release oral morphine tablet, is not designed for injecting. MS Contin contains insoluble materials, including wax-like polymers. Injecting MS Contin can result in serious disease and injury.

NTAHC does not wish to encourage or promote the injecting of MS Contin or other drugs, but has produced this resource to assist those who do choose to inject it, to better assess and reduce the risks to their health.



NOTE: It is important that hands, fingers, surfaces, spoons & any other equipment be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. All syringes, needles, filters and water should be sterile and not previously used.

You will need:  
Sterile water  
1 x 3ml and 1 x 5ml syringe ( barrels)  
Metal teaspoon (or pill crusher)  
Small bowl or large spoon  
Sterile cotton wool ball or rollie filter  
1 x 19g needle for preparation  
1 x 27g needle for injecting  
1 x 0.8 micron wheel filter  
1 x 0.2 micron wheel filter (optional)  
Alcohol wipes (swabs)-plenty.

**METHOD:**

1. Use an alcohol wipe to rub off the coloured, waxy coating from the tablet. Leave the tablet to dry-approx. 2 minutes.
2. Either use a disinfected pill crusher or place the tablet in the large spoon or bowl and crush it to a very fine powder, using the teaspoon. The finer the powder, the more morphine will be released



**CRUSH PILL TO FINE POWDER**

3. Add 3ml of sterile water to the powder and stir & grind thoroughly, breaking up any lumps that remain. You need 3ml of water for each tablet you are preparing, regardless of the dose of the tablets. Your mixture should now be smooth and milky.

4. Drop a rollie filter or half a cotton ball into the mixture. You need to wait at least 5 minutes for the filter to extract the maximum morphine. This "Cold Absorption" method has been laboratory tested as the most efficient way of extracting morphine, but you must give it time to work.

5. While waiting, prime the wheel filter by pushing 0.5ml of sterile water through it.

6. Place the 5ml mixing barrel on top of the cotton ball or rollie filter-don't push it right in. Carefully draw the fluid into the barrel. You should now have 2-2.5ml of slightly milky or almost clear liquid. There are still many harmful sized particles in this liquid, so it is not yet safe for injecting.

[to extract the maximum possible amount of morphine, some people add another 1ml of water to the spoon/bowl and repeat the last step]



**MIX TILL NO LUMPS  
USE STERILE WATER**

**WAIT 5 MINUTES  
FOR FILTER TO  
COLD ABSORB**

7. Attach a 0.8 wheel filter to the 5ml barrel containing the mix and attach a 19g needle on top of that.
  8. Draw back the plunger on the new, 3ml injecting barrel and hold it upright, plunger downwards. Place the 19g needle into the top of the injecting barrel and slowly push the mix through the wheel filter and into the injecting barrel.
  9. Draw up another 0.5 to 1ml of sterile water into the empty mixing barrel and reattach the wheel filter and 19g needle. Repeat step 8. to flush any remaining morphine into the 3ml barrel.
  10. Attach the 27g needle to the injecting barrel and remove the air. You are ready to go
- NOTE: If you have previously had endocarditis or other heart condition or if you are concerned that the tablet wasn't 100% sterile when it came to you, it is recommended that you now refilter with a 0.2 micron wheel filter. This will remove any bacteria or fungi from the mix.

