

Brand change

Morphine ampoules

The funded brand of morphine ampoules is changing, as a result of Pharmac's annual tender process.

The current brand, DBL Morphine Sulfate (Pfizer), is being replaced with Morphine Sulfate (Medsurge). Both brands are morphine sulfate pentahydrate solutions for injection.

The new brand was listed in community and hospital schedules on 1 October 2022. The brand change will affect all strengths of morphine ampoules, namely:

- 5mg/ml
- 10mg/ml
- 15mg/ml
- 30mg/ml.

Packaging for the new brand will look different, and the colour-coding signifying the strength of morphine ampoules will change.

Careful attention is required to ensure the correct strength of morphine ampoule is selected for administration.

Changes to colour-coding mean extra vigilance required

Both brands of morphine ampoules use colour-coding to signify strength; however, these colours do not exactly match across brands, and the new brand has some colour codes that are very similar between strengths (see chart). Specifically, Medsurge has brown colour-coding for both the 15mg/mL and 30mg/mL strengths, although the shade differs.



New ampoules colour-coded

Individual morphine ampoules of the new brand exhibit the same colour codes as their specific packaging; the current brand does not have colour-coded ampoules (see chart). Morphine solution is presented in pre-scored One Point Cut ampoules that can be opened easily and safely, reducing the risk of splintering and/or sharp edges.

Compatibility

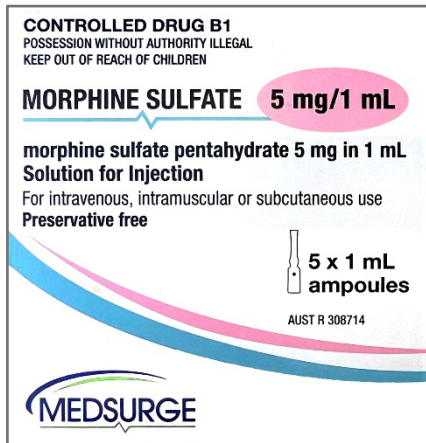
Morphine may sometimes be mixed with other medicines prior to injection. All strengths of DBL Morphine and Medsurge morphine ampoules are the morphine sulphate pentahydrate salt, are preservative free, and contain the same excipients. Therefore, Medsurge brand morphine compatibilities are expected to be the same as the DBL brand.

Brand	Salt	Excipients	Incompatibilities (noted on the datasheet)	pH
Medsurge	Morphine Sulphate	Hydrochloric acid, sodium chloride, water for injection	Thiopentone: forms an inactive preparation when combined	3.2 – 4.5
DBL Morphine Sulphate	Morphine Sulphate	Hydrochloric acid, sodium chloride, water for injection	Thiopentone: forms an inactive preparation when combined	3.2 – 4.0

Colour comparison chart

5mg/ml strength

Medsurge (new brand)



DBL Pfizer (incumbent brand)



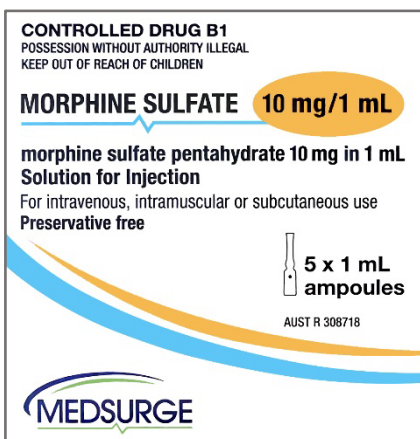
New brand: **Pink-hued** colour code

Incumbent brand: **Pink-hued** colour code

Although colour-coding for both brands is pink, the shade of pink differs between brands

10mg/ml strength

Medsurge (new brand)



DBL Pfizer (incumbent brand)



New brand: **Yellow-hued** colour code

Incumbent brand: **Yellow-hued** colour code

Although colour-coding for both brands is yellow, the shade of yellow differs between brands

15mg/ml strength

Medsurge (new brand)



DBL Pfizer (incumbent brand)



New brand: **Chocolate brown** colour code

Incumbent brand: **Chocolate brown** colour code

Note the new brand has brown colour-coding for *both* the 15mg/ml and 30mg/ml strengths, although shades differ

30mg/ml strength

Medsurge (new brand)



DBL Pfizer (incumbent brand)



New brand: **Reddish-brown** colour code

Incumbent brand: **Pink-hued** colour code

Note the new brand has brown colour-coding for *both* the 15mg/ml and 30mg/ml strengths, although shades differ

Morphine ampoule appearance

Medsurge 10mg/ml (new brand)



DBL Pfizer 10mg/ml (incumbent brand)



New brand: Colour-coding is on the ampoule label

Incumbent brand: No colour-coding on ampoule label
