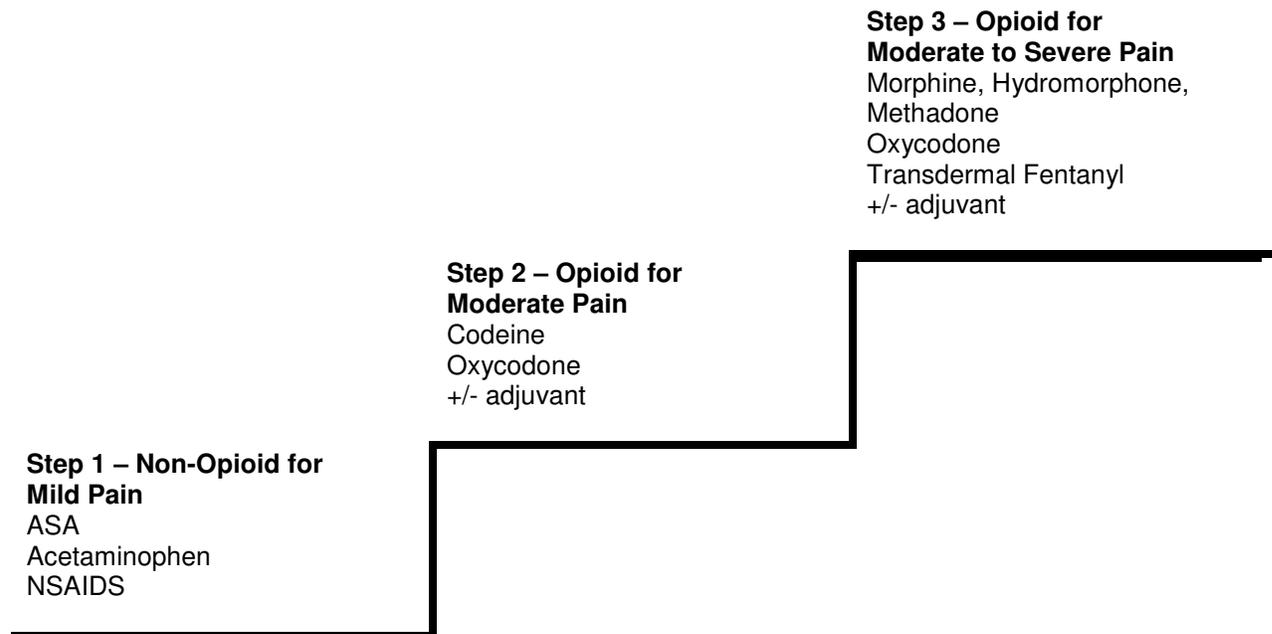


## Choosing the Appropriate Analgesic

The WHO (World Health Organization) Ladder (Adapted from WHO draft Interim Guidelines Handbook on Relief of Cancer Pain, Geneva 1986) is a guideline that can be used to help choose an appropriate analgesic:



### Non-Opioids

The non-opioid analgesics that characterize Step 1 (Mild Pain) of the WHO ladder (ASA, acetaminophen, NSAIDs) all have a ceiling effect to their analgesia. The Step 1 analgesics have the greatest risk of severe adverse effects. Gastro-intestinal toxicity is the most serious side effect with the use of NSAIDs.

There are three types of non-opioid analgesics:

1. Salicylates
2. Acetaminophen
3. Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)