Fentanyl Transdermal Patch in the Treatment of Pain

Fentanyl transdermal (skin) patch is a strong opioid (narcotic) pain medicine used to treat constant, moderate to severe chronic pain that requires continuous pain medicine for an extended period of time.

A fentanyl ______ mcg (microgram) patch has been ordered to treat your child’s pain.

Be sure to follow the directions exactly as instructed for safe and effective therapy. Fentanyl patches are available in 12, 25, 50, 75 and 100 microgram patches. Your child’s doctor will talk with you if your child’s dose needs to be changed.

How and Where to Apply the Patch:

- In young children, apply the patch on the upper back. This will lessen the chances the patch will be removed.

- In older children and adolescents apply the patch on the chest, back, sides of the waist or upper arm in a place without hair. If there is hair, clip hair as close to the skin as possible with scissors, but do not shave.

- Remove patch from the protective pouch immediately before use. Do not use the patch if the seal is broken or the patch is cut or damaged in any way. Write the date and time on the patch.

- Clean the skin area with water only and pat completely dry. Do not use anything on the skin before the patch is applied. Do not apply a patch to damaged skin areas.

- Peel the liner from the back of the patch and throw away in the trash. Touch the sticky side on the new patch as little as possible.

- Press the patch onto the skin with the palm of your hand and hold for 30 seconds. Make sure it sticks well, especially at the edges.

- Check the patch often to make sure it is sticking well to the skin.

- If the patch comes loose after applying, tape the edges down with medical tape. Throw the patch away if it falls off. See disposal instructions.

- Be sure to remove the old patch when a new patch is applied.

- Wash your hands after applying a patch.

When to Change the Patch:

- Remove the fentanyl patch after it has been in place for 3 days.

- Write the date and time on the patch as you put the new patch on.

- Do not apply the new patch in the same place as the last one.

- The patch may be applied at any time of day. Change it at about the same time of day every 3 days. Do not use the patch more often than prescribed.

- Apply a new patch to a different skin location if it falls off.
Proper Disposal of Patches:

- Fold the fentanyl patch in half so the sticky side sticks to itself. Flush it down the toilet right away.
- Dispose of any patches left over from your prescription when they are no longer needed. Remove the leftover patches from their protective pouch and remove the protective liner. Fold the patches in half with the sticky sides together and flush down the toilet. Throw away the pouches and protective liners in the trash.
- Wash your hands after handling patches.
- A used fentanyl patch that is improperly disposed of may be dangerous and can even lead to death in babies, children, adults, and pets.

Special Instructions:

- Do not apply more than one patch at a time unless your health care provider tells you to.
- Do not let your child use heat sources such as heating pads, electric blankets, heat lamps, tanning beds, hot tubs, or heated water beds while wearing a fentanyl patch.
- Your child should not take long hot baths or sun bathe. This kind of heat can make your child’s temperature rise and cause too much medicine to be released at once.
- Your child can bathe, swim, and shower while wearing the patch. If it falls off, apply a new patch to the skin, and dispose of the old patch.
- Do not stop using fentanyl patches suddenly. This can make your child sick with withdrawal symptoms.
- Store patches in a cool, dry place until needed.

Safety Information:

- Use the fentanyl patches exactly as instructed. This medication can cause trouble breathing and result in death when used incorrectly.
- Tell your child’s doctor and pharmacist if your child is taking any other medication or is allergic to any medications.
- Tell your child’s doctor and pharmacist if your child is taking any vitamins, herbal products, nutritional supplements or over-the-counter medications. Serious side effects may occur when combined with fentanyl.
- Fentanyl patches should only be used by patients 2 years or older who have been taking opioid (narcotic) pain medications for at least one week.
- Keep fentanyl patches in a safe place away from children and pets.
- Keep fentanyl patches in a safe place to protect them from being stolen since they can be a target for people who abuse narcotics or street drugs.
**Common Side Effects:**

- Nausea and vomiting
- Dry mouth
- Sleepiness
- Weakness
- Sweating
- Constipation (See "Constipation" CARE CARD.)

**Call your child’s doctor or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if:**

- Your child has a fever higher than 102º F (38.9º C). A fever can cause too much medicine to pass into the body.
- Your child feels faint, dizzy or confused.
- Your child experiences common side effects that are not tolerable.
- Your child has trouble sleeping or has a seizure.

**Call 911 if:**

- Your child has trouble breathing, shortness of breath, or little chest movement with breathing.
- Your child is difficult to awaken and has slowed breathing.

**Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if:**

- Too much medicine is taken.
- Medication is used accidentally by another person. Accidental use by a child is a medical emergency and can result in death.