
Fentanyl Patch Return Program

What is the Fentanyl Patch Return Program?

The Fentanyl Patch for Patch Return Program is collaboration between physicians, pharmacists, and patients to promote the safe, effective, and responsible use of fentanyl patches, and other opioid transdermal (skin) patches. In general, it applies a “one for one” model, where patients are required to return “used” patches on the Fentanyl Patch Return Record Sheet to the pharmacy, before the next prescription is filled.

Why are these changes being made?

The Patch for Patch Return program is helping to achieve a safer community. In returning these patches, you are helping to reduce risks, since a “used” patch poses significant dangers to children and pets, and they contain enough medication to be harmful to someone who is not prescribed this medication. Fentanyl and other opioid medications have received considerable attention in the media due to overdoses, deaths, and medication being “diverted” to individuals who are not prescribed this medication.

How should the used patches be stored?

The program requires that you place used patches onto the Fentanyl Patch Return Record Sheet, in sequential order, so that each patch can easily be recognized. These sheets are available from your pharmacist and will be given at the time your medication is dispensed. Please also write the date beside each patch when you apply it to the Fentanyl Patch Return Record Sheet.

How do we handle a vacation supply?

You must return the same quantity of patches that you received. If you require a larger quantity than usual because you are away for vacation, you must return the same number of patches that is given to you for your identified vacation in order to receive the next prescription repeat. The pharmacist will document the change.

Can I return patches to the doctor's office or another pharmacy?

No, the patches need to be returned to the dispensing pharmacist. Physicians are not equipped to receive used medication. The prescription and location of the used patches need to be verified by the pharmacist.

What happens if I lose a patch?

If you lose a patch, you should contact your prescribing physician. The pharmacist will also need to contact the physician. For example, if you return only 8 out of 10 patches, you will only receive one dose with your next renewal and your physician will be notified.

What do I do if I feel my use is getting out of control?

One of the risks of opioid medication is that your body may develop "tolerance" over time, and that higher amounts are required in order to receive the same level of pain control. Over time, some people develop addiction to opioids. Watch for warning signs that you are developing tolerance, and talk openly with your prescribing physician about your concerns.

Be up front with your health care professional and seek help early, as this is a potent medication with potentially serious side effects.

If you need someone to talk to, you can contact:

In Simcoe County, Canadian Mental Health Association:

Barrie 1-800-461-4319

Orillia 1-888-329-5846

Midland 705 526-0393

Alliston 705 435 3594

Collingwood 705 444 2558

In Muskoka:

Addiction Outreach Muskoka Parry Sound at 705 645 1311

Across Ontario:

Drug and Alcohol Helpline 1-800-565-8603 www.drugandalcoholhelpline.ca

Adapted with permission from Peterborough County-City Health Unit