



ADULT

# FENTANYL (TOPICAL AND ORAL)

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)



**HIGH RISK Medication** 

**Schedule 8 Medication**

<p><b>Presentation</b></p>	<p><b>Sublingual tablet (Abstral®):</b> 100 microg <b>Lozenge (Actiq®):</b> 200 microg <b>Transdermal Patch:</b> 12 microg/hour, 25 microg/hour, 50 microg/hour, 75 microg/hour, 100 microg/hour</p>
<p><b>Dose</b></p>	<p>Doses will vary widely depending on the indication and previous analgesic requirements. Titrate dose according to response and sedation score.</p> <p><b><u>Breakthrough pain in chronic cancer pain</u></b></p> <p><i>Patients may only take if stabilised for &gt;7 days on opioid therapy equivalent to 60mg oral morphine daily for cancer pain.</i></p> <p><i>NB: Sublingual and buccal formulations are NOT interchangeable.</i></p> <p><b>Sublingual (Abstral®):</b></p> <p>100 microg tablet when required for breakthrough pain relief. If this is inadequate after 30 minutes give another 100 microg tablet, consider increasing the tablet strength for the first dose in the next episode of breakthrough pain. Maximum 800microg per episode.</p> <p><b>Buccal (Actiq®):</b></p> <p>200 microg lozenge when required for breakthrough pain relief. If this is inadequate after 30 minutes give another 200 microg lozenge, consider increasing the tablet strength for the first dose in the next episode of breakthrough pain. Maximum 1600microg per episode.</p> <p><b><u>Chronic pain</u></b></p> <p><i>Do not use fentanyl patch in opioid-naïve patients</i></p> <p><b>Topical:</b></p> <p>Base dose on previous 24 hour opioid requirement, calculating equivalent 24 hour fentanyl dose if necessary. Use ONE patch every 3 days. Adjust dose according to response. Use no more frequently than every 3 days if analgesia is insufficient.</p>

<b>Administration</b>	<p><b><u>Sublingual (Abstral®)</u></b></p> <p>Place tablet under the tongue and keep in place until dissolved. Do not chew, suck or swallow the tablet. If you have a dry mouth, moisten with water before using the tablet.</p> <p><b><u>Lozenge (Actiq®)</u></b></p> <p>Place lozenge in the mouth against the cheek and move it around the mouth using the applicator. Let it dissolve over 15 minutes. Do not chew the lozenge. If you have a dry mouth, moisten with water before using the lozenge.</p> <p><b><u>Patch</u></b></p> <p>Write the date and time of application on the patch with a permanent marker then apply to dry, non-irritated, hairless and cool skin on upper torso. Remove after 3 days and put a new patch on a different area (avoid re-using the same area for at least 3 weeks)</p> <p>Heat increases the release of fentanyl from patch; avoid exposure to external heat sources (including electric blankets, heat pads, heat lamps, saunas, hot baths)</p> <p>Do not cut or divide patches as this may affect drug release characteristics</p>
<b>Pregnancy</b>	<p><b>1st Trimester:</b> Considered safe to use</p> <p><b>2nd Trimester:</b> Considered safe to use</p> <p><b>3rd Trimester:</b> Considered safe to use</p>
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	Considered safe to use
<b>Monitoring</b>	<p>Pain score and frequency of breakthrough pain relief use Monitor sedation score and respiratory rate Dependence and tolerance</p> <p><b>Transdermal Patch:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patch takes about 24–72 hours to reach maximum effect; steady state concentration may not be reached until the second patch is applied; wean other analgesics slowly after first patch is applied</li> <li>• Patch is generally effective for 72 hours; however, adult patients with pain that regularly occurs before the next dose is due may sometimes need to apply a new patch every 48 hours</li> </ul> <p><b>Lozenge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take particular care to ensure good dental hygiene as the lozenge contains sugar</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical guidelines and Policies</b>	<p><a href="#">Palliative Care</a></p> <p><a href="#">Schedule 8 Controlled Medications Administration</a></p> <p><a href="#">Opioid Administration in the Recovery Room</a></p>

<b>References</b>	<p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Fentanyl. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2017 [cited 2017 Jan 8]. Available from: <a href="https://amhonline.amh.net.au/">https://amhonline.amh.net.au/</a></p> <p>The Royal Women's Hospital. Fentanyl. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2016 [cited 2017 Nov 10]. Available from: <a href="https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/">https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/</a></p> <p>MIMS Australia. Fentanyl. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2016 [cited 2017 Nov 10]. Available from: <a href="https://www.mimsonline.com.au">https://www.mimsonline.com.au</a></p>
-------------------	--

Keywords:	Fentanyl, chronic pain, breakthrough pain, palliative care, abstral, actiq, durogesic		
Publishing:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intranet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet		
Document owner:	Chief Pharmacist		
Author / Reviewer:	Pharmacy Department		
Date first issued:	Apr 2015	Version:	3.0
Last reviewed:	Jan 2018	Next review date:	Jan 2021
Endorsed by:	Medicines and Therapeutics Committee	Date:	Jan 2018
Standards Applicable:	NSQHS Standards: 1  Clinical Care is Guided by Current Best Practice 4  Medication Safety		
<b>Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled.          Access the current version from the WNHS website.</b>			

© Department of Health Western Australia 2018