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PHS Healthcare Fentanyl Patch Protocol for Community Pharmacies

This protocol is to outline the shared workflow between community pharmacies and the PHS healthcare team for providing the fentanyl patch.

This is an off label use of the fentanyl patch for people who have opioid use disorder. The fentanyl patch can be used in addition to regular OAT, or as a replacement for OAT. Many people will do a slow cross titration from OAT to the patch.

Please see the PHS Fentanyl Patch Policy for details about the fentanyl patch program:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TEyD0iMfY88qYfYe1LoC1nPDT_1du5vwNRAcMTeRwHM/edit?usp=sharing

Fentanyl Patch Protocol

Fentanyl patches are applied Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This provides a consistent schedule for the patient, so they have their patch changes on the same day each week.



A PHS physician will send in a fentanyl patch prescription. For logistical ease, the prescription will usually be 3 months long, but the patient may titrate after 2 doses in a row. There may be many new prescriptions during the titration period, but each will be 3 months long in order to ensure they do not expire before the patient can be assessed.

Some patients may already be titrated up to a therapeutic dose at our program, and transition to getting their patch at the pharmacy after stability. Others will go through the titration at the pharmacy.

Before Administration

If the pharmacist is not removing and applying the patches, the patient is responsible for applying and removing their own patches. Some patients may have a family member who applies the patches for them, especially if they are applied on the back.

The Pharmacist ensures that all the patches are returned unadulterated, and that there has been no diversion.

Prior to dispensing, ensure all previous patches have been removed and are accounted for.

The patient has the option to remove the patches at the pharmacy or remove them prior to coming to the pharmacy and securing the used patches in a plastic bag to be given to the pharmacist for disposal. This depends on patient comfort, as well as space and privacy at the pharmacy.

If the patient is sedated, the pharmacist can hold the dose and have the patient return for administration when they are less sedated. In some cases, this may be the next day.

Missed Doses

If the patient misses a patch change, they can receive the patch up to **5** days after the last patch change, then return to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule as soon as possible.

I.e. A patient receives a 500mcg patch Wednesday, but misses their patch change on Friday, then presents on Sunday. They can receive a 500mcg patch Sunday and again on Monday to get them back on schedule.

If it has been **6** days or more since the last patch change, the script is canceled and the patient must call or come into the clinic to restart. We only provide restarts during regular clinic hours, and the patient has to present in person.

Day of the week	Patch change	Day Counter	Dose
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Monday	Gets a new patch		
Tuesday		1	
Wednesday	Misses patch change	2	
Thursday		3	No change to dose
Friday		4	No change to dose
Saturday		5	No change to dose
Sunday		6	Prescription canceled

Missing Patches

If the patient presents without patches, the patient can still receive their new patches, as long as they are within 5 days of the previous patch change. (These are the same parameters as the missed dose protocol.)

In any circumstance of missing patches, this will be considered as a diversion. Please fax us to let us know at 604 629-5195. We track diversions, and after 3 instances, the person will be discharged from the program. The physician will fax a prescription discontinuation order.

Everyone who is discharged from the program will be offered a different medication option, such as OAT.

Missing patches within 5 days of previous patch change

For example, if they received 100mcg on Wednesday, and present on Friday for a patch change, without their previous patches, you can dispense 100mcg. Fax and let the clinic know about the diversion.

Missing patches after 5 days since previous patch change

If they received 100mcg on Wednesday, and presents on Tuesday without any patches, the prescription is canceled, as it has been more than 5 days since the previous patch change.

Communication

Clinic Hours



Pharmacists can call the clinic to speak with the doctor any time during clinic hours - 604-879-7906.

Clinic runs Monday to Friday 9:00 - 12:00, and 1:30 - 4:30.

After hours and weekends

There will be no after hours or weekend adjustments or restarts of fentanyl patch prescriptions. If there is any doubt about administering, hold the dose or cancel the prescription and have the patient present to the next clinic day.

Dose Increases

If the patient is requesting a dose increase, instruct them to call or see a physician at the clinic. Please do not request increases on the patient's behalf. The doctor on call cannot titrate fentanyl patch doses.

Documentation

Patches should only be filled on Pharmanet the day they are administered. If this is not possible, please advise the clinic and fax a record of the dates patches were dispensed each week to:

604-629-5195 - Attn: Sheldon Ram