



Northern Health Palliative Care

Fentanyl Transdermal Patch in Palliative Care

Indications:

- **Chronic, STABLE** pain requiring **around-the-clock** opioid relief in patients that are **opioid tolerant** (taking at least 60 mg/day of oral morphine equivalent for 7 days or longer).

Contradictions:

- **NOT** appropriate for **mild, unstable, or uncontrolled** pain.
 - **Uncontrolled Pain** is > 3 Breakthrough pain medication doses in a 24 hour period
- **NOT** appropriate in a patient experiencing a **pain crisis**.

Points to Consider:

- It is **strongly recommended** for all prescribers to utilize the Fentanyl Transdermal Patch order set for all fentanyl transdermal patch orders.
- **Always include** appropriate **immediate release breakthrough analgesia** as suggested on the Fentanyl Transdermal Patch order set.
- You can find the [Fentanyl Transdermal Patch \(10-111-5338\)](#) order set on DocumentSource.
- For additional support, particularly if rotating **on or off** of the fentanyl patch, please contact the NH Palliative Care Consultation Team at **250-645-3791** or Palliative.Care.Consult.Team@northernhealth.ca

More information on the use of the fentanyl transdermal patch in palliative patients can be found in the [NH Palliative Care Program Symptom Guidelines 4th Edition](#) under the chapter, "Principles of Opioid Management."