









## Safe use of Fentanyl Transdermal Patches

Dear Patient!

Pharmacy Stamp / Stempel der Apotheke

Fentanyl Transdermal patches are an effective and safe form of medication for severe chronic pain. However, if used incorrectly, they can cause serious harm. It is therefore very important that you use Fentanyl patches exactly as prescribed by your doctor and described in the patient information leaflet.

Be sure to follow these safety instructions!

	<b>Use only intact patches.</b> <u>Never</u> cut the patches or use damaged patches.
	<p><b>Apply only to intact (undamaged, non-irritated, non-irradiated) skin in the area of chest, back, side or upper arm.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Apply the patch immediately after removing it from the packaging, avoid touching the adhesive surface.</li> <li>→ Press the patch firmly onto the application area with your flat hand for about 30 seconds so that it sticks completely and firmly. Then wash your hands.</li> </ul> <p><b>The skin area should be hairless.</b></p> <p>If your skin is very hairy, do not shave it as this can irritate the skin. Instead, trim the hair as close to your skin as possible before applying the patch.</p>
	<p><b>If you need to clean your skin before you apply the patch, just use cold water.</b></p> <p>Do not use soap or any other cleansers, creams, moisturisers or oils. The skin must be completely dry before applying the patch.</p>
	<p><b>Use exactly as prescribed by your doctor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Apply a new patch every 72 hours (unless prescribed otherwise).</li> <li>→ <b>Remove the old patch before applying a new one!</b></li> <li>→ Apply new patch to a <b>different area of skin.</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Avoid heat exposure</b> to the skin area on which the patch sticks!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <u>No</u> heating pads, electric blankets, sauna, intensive sunbathing, long hot baths, whirlpools!</li> <li>→ In intense heat, the body absorbs too much of the drug at once.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Keep both new and used plasters away from children!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Used patches still contain the active substance. Check regularly that the patch has not fallen off, especially in the morning when you get up. Consider taping the patch to your skin so it doesn't come off your body. Children have found patches that have fallen off or removed patches from sleeping adults and put them in their mouths or on their bodies with deadly results. If a patch is chewed, sucked on, or ingested, seek immediate medical attention.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Store patches safely!</b></p> <p>Never use on other people or for purposes other than those prescribed by your doctor.</p>
	<p><b>Dispose of patches safely!</b></p> <p>Safely discard used or unneeded patches by folding the sticky sides together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <u>Never</u> flush down the toilet</li> <li>→ Ask at your pharmacy for safe disposal</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Remove patch and see a doctor immediately</b> in the case of flat or very slow breathing, severe dizziness or confusion, severe impairment of speech or movement, chest pain with a very fast or very slow heartbeat.</p>
	<p><b>Be sure to inform your doctors and pharmacies that you are using Fentanyl patches,</b> to avoid risks arising from interactions with other medicines.</p>

For further information on risks and side effects, please read the patient information leaflet of your prescribed fentanyl product and ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice!