

St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center

DURAGESIC®

Fentanyl Transdermal Patches

PATIENT INFORMATION-2004

Your healthcare provider has prescribed a Duragesic® _____mcg patch(s) to treat your pain. It is important that you follow the directions from your healthcare provider exactly when using this medication.

- Duragesic® patches contain “fentanyl”, a narcotic pain reliever which should only be used to treat chronic, severe pain.
- Duragesic® patches are worn for 72 hours.
- **DO NOT** wear more than one patch at a time unless instructed to do so by your healthcare provider.

APPLICATION

- Select an area where there is no hair (i.e. chest, back, waist, upper arm) to apply the patch. **Do not shave skin**, if needed, clip hair as close to the skin as possible.
- Clean the area with water only. **DO NOT use soap, lotions, or other substances on the skin where the patch will be applied.**
- Peel the liner from the back of the patch, being careful to not touch the sticky side of the patch.
- Firmly press the patch to your skin making sure that it is sticking well.
- Patches should be changed every 3 days at approximately the same time of day.
- Place the patch on a different skin area each time the patch is changed.
- If the patch falls off, replace it with a new patch.

DISPOSAL

- Before putting on a new patch, remove the old one you have been wearing.
- Fold the old patch, sticky sides together.
- Flush the old patch down the toilet. **DO NOT put Duragesic® patches (old or new) in the garbage.**
- Once you are no longer using Duragesic® patches, remaining patches should be discarded of as listed above.

Continued on back

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- **DO NOT use any heat sources (i.e. heating pads, electric blankets, heat lamps, hot tubs, hot baths, saunas, sun bathing) while using Duragesic® patches.** Elevated temperatures may cause the patch to release too much medicine into your system. It is alright to bathe/shower while wearing your patch.
- **If you develop a fever of 102°F contact your healthcare provider immediately.** Elevated temperatures may cause the patch to release too much medicine into your system.
- **Women who are breastfeeding should not use this medication as this medication will be excreted through breast milk to the baby.**
- **DO NOT take other medications without first talking to your healthcare provider.** Some medications may interact with this medicine.
- **DO NOT drink alcoholic beverages while using this medication.**
- **Use caution when driving or operating machinery.** Duragesic® patches may make you tired.
- **DO NOT stop wearing the patch without talking to your health care provider first.** You may develop dependence to this medication which could make you sick if you stop using it suddenly.
- **Keep Duragesic® patches out of reach from children and pets. DO NOT put Duragesic® patches (old or new) in the garbage.**
- **DO NOT give your patches to any other person to use.** It is illegal to sell or give this medication to any other person and may be very dangerous when used by individuals for whom the medication was not prescribed.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Most side effects are easily treated. The more common side effects are listed below however you may develop other side effects. Contact your healthcare provider if you experience any of the following:

- **Trouble breathing**, including slow or shallow breaths.
- **Nausea**
- **Constipation.** You should have regular bowel movements at least every 3 days. You may need a stool softener or laxative to keep your bowels regulated.
- **Dry mouth**
- **Excessive sleepiness or weakness**
- **Confusion**
- **Sweating**

NOTIFY YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF:

- **You develop a fever of 102°F or higher.**
- **You are having difficulty breathing. **Changes in breathing can be dangerous and may cause death if untreated.**
- **You develop any side effects to the medication that concern you.**
- **Family members/Caregivers should contact the your healthcare provider immediately if you are unarousable or if your breathing becomes slow (less than 10 breaths per minute).**

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