

Notice from the Executive Officer: Promoting Compliance with the Existing Limited Use Criteria for the Fentanyl Transdermal Patch

September 21, 2017

Ontario Public Drug Programs is committed to supporting the appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids and addressing the issue of prescription opioid misuse and abuse.

Effective October 1, 2017, a new network rule will be implemented in the Health Network System (HNS) to promote the safe and effective use of fentanyl transdermal patches by promoting compliance with the Limited Use (LU) criteria.

Fentanyl transdermal patches are listed under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program as a LU benefit.

For ODB eligible recipients, the HNS will now assist pharmacists to ensure that patients meet the applicable clinical criteria for fentanyl transdermal patches at the time of dispensing, promoting the appropriate prescribing and dispensing of these products. This network rule utilizes the dispensing histories contained in both the Health Network System (HNS) and the Narcotics Monitoring System (NMS) to determine if a patient received a long-acting opioid or a fentanyl transdermal patch in the previous 180-day period.

- If a dispensing record is found for a long-acting opioid or a fentanyl transdermal patch in the previous 180 days, the current claim for fentanyl transdermal patch will be accepted.
- If no prior dispensing records are found in the HNS or the NMS, then the current claim for fentanyl transdermal patch will be rejected with response code QM (No Record of Required Prior Therapy).
- An override code MZ (Required Prior Therapy Documented) can be used to allow pharmacists to use their professional judgement to submit the claim as appropriate by confirming the patient meets the Reason For Use (RFU)/LU code criteria. Documentation may be requested for post-payment verification.

At this time, the new HNS feature will only be applicable to the listed Formulary fentanyl transdermal patches, 25 mcg/hour and 50 mcg/hour strengths. Fentanyl transdermal patches funded under the Exceptional Access Program or Palliative Care Facilitated Access will NOT be subject to the rule.

The current LU code 201 will be deactivated and a new LU code will be assigned. Effective with the September formulary update, the new RFU/LU code for Formulary fentanyl transdermal patches will be as follows:

- LU Code 511: For the treatment of chronic pain in patients who cannot tolerate, or have failed treatment with a long-acting opioid. Intolerance or failed treatment with a long acting opioid will be subject to verification at the time of dispensing. LU Authorization Period: 1 year.

Please note that transition code RFU/LU 279 will be activated for formulary listed fentanyl transdermal patches to transition patients to the new LU code and criteria. This transition code may be submitted for a claim for a period of three months after the change. It is expected that after three months all patients with a prescription for a formulary listed fentanyl transdermal patch have the correct LU Code and meet the new clinical criteria. The transition code will be effective for 3 months and deactivated with the December formulary update.

Table 1: Summary of Fentanyl Transdermal Patch Limited Use (LU) Codes

LU Code	Description	When to use
201	The current LU code for fentanyl transdermal patches. Will be deactivated with the September formulary update.	Up until the September formulary update.
511	The new LU code for fentanyl transdermal patches with new clinical criteria. Effective as of the September formulary update.	As of the September formulary update.

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LU Code	Description	When to use
279	Transition code that can be used up to 3 months after an LU code change. The transition code will be deactivated with the December formulary update.	After the September formulary update if the prescription cannot be clarified with the prescriber.

There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that accompanies this notice. Please review this document for further information.

Additional information:

For pharmacies:

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

For all other health care providers and the public:

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.

For technical issues relating to the submission of data to the NMS, please contact your pharmacy software vendor or contact the ODB Help desk at 1-800-668-6641.