

Fentanyl Patch for Patch Return Program

Patient FAQs

Overview

This notice is to inform patients who use fentanyl patches that on October 1, 2016, the provincial government is introducing a new program, called the Patch for Patch (P4P) Program.

1. What is the fentanyl Patch for Patch (P4P) Program?

The P4P Program requires patients to return used fentanyl patches to their pharmacy before more can be dispensed.

This program involves:

- you, the patient, who has a prescription for fentanyl patches
- your doctor, who prescribes your fentanyl patches
- your pharmacist, who dispenses your fentanyl patches

2. How can I get more information about the P4P Program?

You can find out more information on the P4P Program by talking to your doctor and your pharmacist.

3. Are all patients with fentanyl patches required to participate in the P4P Program?

Yes. All patients who wish to fill a prescription for fentanyl patches at an Ontario pharmacy must return their used fentanyl patches to that pharmacy before receiving their next fentanyl patches from the pharmacy. This requirement does not apply to a patient's first prescription for fentanyl patches.

4. How do I physically return my used fentanyl patches to my pharmacist?

There is no specific way you must return your used fentanyl patches to your pharmacist. However, for convenience, patients are advised to attach their used fentanyl patches to a piece of paper or a P4P Program disposal form that may be available from your

pharmacist. The used patches must be returned to your pharmacy before new fentanyl patches will be dispensed.

A sample of a [P4P disposal form](#) (pdf) is available on page 9 of a report on the Fentanyl Patch 4 Patch Initiative prepared by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. However, your pharmacy may choose to use other versions.

You are encouraged to talk with your doctor and/or pharmacist to get disposal forms.

5. What will my doctor do when he/she prescribes fentanyl patches?

Under the P4P Program, when your doctor writes a prescription, they must:

1. Record (on the fentanyl prescription) the name and address of the pharmacy where you will fill your prescription.
2. Notify your pharmacy each time they write you a prescription, either by faxing a copy of the prescription to your pharmacy or by calling them on the phone.
3. In the case of your first prescription for fentanyl patches, your doctor must write “first prescription” on your prescription. A prescription is considered a “first prescription” when:
 - i. The doctor has not previously prescribed a fentanyl patch for you; and
 - ii. The doctor is reasonably satisfied that you have not previously obtained a fentanyl prescription from another doctor.

Your doctor should also talk to and tell you about the P4P Program.

6. What will happen when I go to the pharmacy for my fentanyl patches?

Under the P4P Program, when your pharmacist dispenses fentanyl patches, they must:

1. Confirm that the name and location of your pharmacy is recorded on the prescription by your doctor.
2. Confirm that your pharmacy was notified by your doctor about your prescription before they dispense any fentanyl patches to you.
3. Unless it is your first fentanyl patch prescription, you will only receive new patches in exchange for your used fentanyl patches. For example, if you return 5 used patches, the pharmacist may only dispense up to 5 new patches.
4. In an instance where you provide a fentanyl patch prescription but you only

return some used fentanyl patches or none at all, your pharmacist must:

- i. Use his or her professional judgment to dispense an appropriate number of fentanyl patches to you, which will include an assessment of your circumstances and medical condition; and
- ii. Notify your doctor of the number of used fentanyl patches you returned (if any), and the number of new fentanyl patches they dispensed to you (if any).

Your pharmacist should also talk to and tell you about the P4P Program.

7. What will happen if I am currently in a long-term care home, in a hospital, or in a prison/correctional facility?

Under the P4P Program, if you are currently in a long-term care home, a hospital patient, or in a prison/correctional facility, you may be exempted from the requirements of the P4P Program provided certain criteria are met, such as a written policy outlining a medication management system and that your pharmacy has a copy of this policy.

Your doctor or pharmacist should also talk to and tell you about these types of situations and how it fits under the P4P Program.

8. Where can I get more information?

For questions or more information about fentanyl patches and/or the P4P Program, talk to your doctor and/or pharmacist or email: PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca.