
Acute pain service

Frequently asked questions about fentanyl lozenges for sudden onset pain and mobilisation in Hospital

Why do I need a fentanyl lozenge?

Fentanyl lozenges are used for breakthrough pain; this is a short-lasting episode of severe pain that you may be experiencing. This is as a result of your current physical condition and in spite of your having taken your usual opioid (morphine type) pain-relieving medicines. An episode of breakthrough pain may be predictable, such as when moving, or totally unpredictable.

Aren't fentanyl lozenges very strong?

Fentanyl is a short acting opioid medicine. Opioid medicines are strong pain relieving medicines.

How long will I have to use the fentanyl lozenges?

The lozenges will be available to you as an inpatient only and your usage will be closely monitored. The pain team looking after you will advise you if you need to take them for longer.

How should I take the fentanyl lozenge?

- Each lozenge is sealed in its own blister package. Do not open the package until you are ready to use it.
- Place the lozenge in your mouth between your cheeks and gums. Using the handle, move the lozenge round in your mouth especially along your cheeks. Twirl the handle often. You may drink some water before using the lozenge to help with taking the product, but you should not drink or eat anything while using this medicine.
- To get the most effective relief, finish the lozenge completely in 15 minutes constantly moving it around the inside of your cheeks and along the gums. If you finish too quickly, you will swallow more of the medicine and get less relief from your breakthrough pain. It is most important that you **do not** bite or chew the lozenge for the same reason.

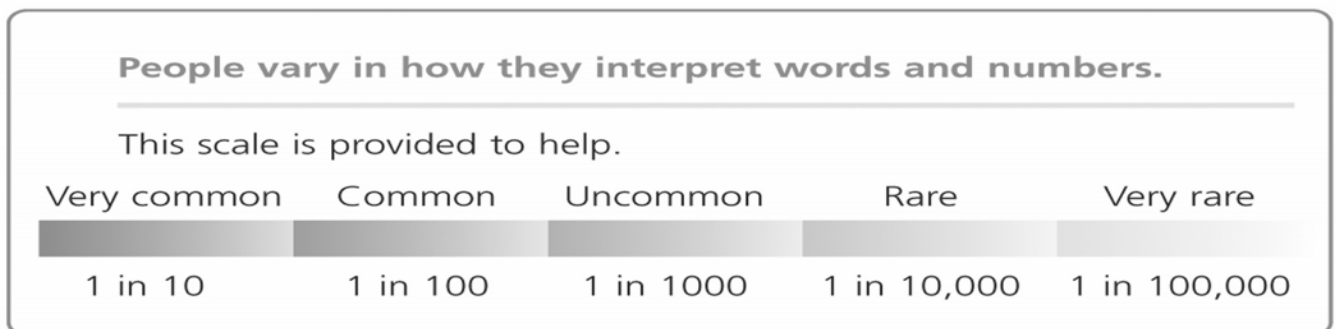
- If you begin to feel dizzy or sick or your pain has gone before you have finished the lozenge, remove it from your mouth and return it to your nurse for disposal
- The lozenges will be prescribed for you as required and will be available up to four times in a day, or as prescribed by your doctor
- **Do not** use more than two lozenges to treat any single episode of breakthrough pain.

Do I need any special observations?

- At regular intervals during you stay, the nurses will take your pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate and ask you about your pain and how you are feeling.
- Your Pain Service doctors and nurses will also visit you to check how you are doing.

Are there any side effects?

All drugs have side effects, but not everyone will experience them. Side effects will usually appear soon after you start taking the medication.



Very common side effects (occurring in more than 1 in 10 people):

Nausea (feeling sick), constipation, sleepiness, dizziness.

Common side effects (occurring in less than 1 in 10 people but more than 1 in 100):

Excessive tiredness, headache, accidental injury (for example, falls), flushing, vomiting, dry mouth, abdominal pain, indigestion, mouth ulcers/inflammation, tongue problems (for example, burning sensation or ulcers), confusion, muscle jerks, anxiety, hallucinations, abnormal thinking, itchy skin, sweating, taste alteration.

Uncommon undesirable effects (occurring in less than 1 in 100 people but more than 1 in 1000):

Abdominal bloating, generally feeling unwell, decreased appetite, wind, tingling or numbness, difficulty coordinating movements, abnormal dreams, feeling detached, depression, mood swings, excessive feeling of well being, shortness of breath, skin rash, blurred or double vision, difficulty passing urine. If you feel excessively dizzy, sleepy or otherwise ill while taking lozenge, use the handle to remove the lozenge and dispose of it by giving it to your nurse. Whilst using the lozenge you may experience

irritation at the application site and gum bleeding. If you notice any other side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your nurse, doctor or pharmacist.

Remember:

Never give your prescribed lozenges to other people as they may not be safe for them to take.

Keep all medicines out of reach of children

Additional information

The information in this leaflet is not intended to replace the advice given to you by your doctor or the Pain Service looking after you. If you require more information or have any questions/concerns, please speak to your doctor or the Acute Pain, Chronic Pain or Palliative Care Services who are looking after you. Your ward nurse will be able to put you in touch with them.



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

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Authors	Sara Kinna
Department	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ www.cuh.org.uk
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