

FENTANYL PATCH PROGRAM INFORMATION

WHAT IS A FENTANYL PATCH PROGRAM?

Fentanyl patch programs are a new way to try reducing some of the harms related to the toxic fentanyl drug supply.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The program may be for people who have an active opioid use disorder, have not found methadone, kadian, or suboxone helpful, and want to reduce their risk of overdose from a toxic drug supply.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You and your health care provider can work together to decide if trying a fentanyl patch is right for you.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Fentanyl patches are covered through PharmaCare, including Plan G and Plan W for those eligible.

CAUTION! Some things may interact with the Fentanyl patch & increase the risk of overdose

- Tell your care provider if you are on HIV medication.
- Excessive heat & physical activities. It may increase the absorption of fentanyl.
- Use of downers like alcohol and benzos.
- Cutting or using the patch in other ways than wearing it on the skin can make the patch ineffective or can increase your risk of overdose.
- If you feel you need a higher dose, discuss with your care provider.
- Side effects of fentanyl use may include slowed breathing, nausea, vomiting, constipation, or overdose resulting in death or brain injury.
- The adhesive (or glue) that keeps the patch on may irritate your skin. Your health care provider will work with you to rotate where you apply the patch.

QUICK FACTS

WHAT IS A FENTANYL PATCH PROGRAM?

- A fentanyl patch is applied to the skin and delivers a constant amount of fentanyl over the course of a few days.
- Based on real-life experience, some people have been able to reduce or stop using fentanyl once they report feeling stable on fentanyl patches.
- This is not an approved treatment for opioid use disorder as there is no current research evidence to support the use of fentanyl patches in this way.
- Some people may only want or need a fentanyl patch; others may need the patch with other forms of harm reduction, or the patch on top of their methadone, kadian, or suboxone treatment.
- Some government-funded clinics are starting to offer this option.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- You and your health care provider will work together to decide if trying a fentanyl patch is right for you.
- A physician or nurse practitioner can prescribe the fentanyl patch.
- Your health care provider will do an assessment to better understand your substance use, health, needs, and goals.
- Fentanyl patches must be changed at a pharmacy or clinic every 2–3 days.
- Multiple patches will likely need to be applied in order to start to feel better. You'll work with your provider over time to find a dose that might help you reach your goals.
- Excessive sweat may cause the patch to fall off. A dressing or tape can be placed on top to help keep the patch in place.
- The old fentanyl patches must be kept intact and returned to their pharmacy or clinic before new ones are given.
- If the patch falls off, fold the patch in half (sticky side in) to avoid sticking to children or pets. Place it in a plastic bag and return to clinic or pharmacy ASAP.