

Medicines

Optimisation intervention brief

Medicines Optimisation Incentive Scheme 2018/19 Cost Saving Intervention

TITLE?
CS2.1.4 Fentanyl matrix patches
WHAT?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribe all fentanyl matrix patches (with the exception of Fencino[®]) as formulary preferred brand choices Mezolar[®] and Matrifen[®] matrix patches. • The difference in acquisition cost between Fencino[®] and Mezolar[®]/ Matrifen[®] is negligible in comparison to other brands. • Review appropriateness of treatment and quantities prescribed.
WHY?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mezolar[®] and Matrifen[®] patches are WHCCG's formulary preferred brand choice and considerably less expensive compared to other brands of fentanyl patches. • Based on current prescribing volumes, the CCG could save £93K per annum if the preferred brands Mezolar[®] and Matrifen[®] were used. • Patient familiarity with one brand is important and helps reduce confusion and risk of error. • A step-wise approach should be adopted for managing pain. Transdermal fentanyl should be considered for patients with stable pain at stage 3 of the local pain guidelines. • Current prescribing data show that some patients are receiving quantities of fentanyl patches in excess of that recommended for schedule 2 controlled drugs.
WHO?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All patients receiving prescriptions for generic fentanyl and Durogesic DTrans[®] patches.
TIPS?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus switching patients receiving long-term treatment of generic fentanyl and Durogesic DTrans[®] patches. • All fentanyl patches are designed to release fentanyl at a steady rate for 72 hours and should therefore be changed every three days.
HOW?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search GP clinical system to identify patients currently prescribed fentanyl and Durogesic DTrans[®] patches. • Exclude patients receiving short-term treatment i.e. palliative care. • Ensure prescribing has followed a step wise approach as per local pain guidelines • Review the clinical appropriateness of all quantities >10 patches per prescription (all brands). • Exclude patients already receiving fentanyl prescribed as Mezolar[®], Matrifen[®], Tilofyl[®] and Fentalis[®] (the latter are reservoir formulations – see further information below) from the switch review. • Identify appropriate patients to switch from generic fentanyl and Durogesic DTrans[®] to



Mezolar[®] or Matrifen[®].

- Draw up a switch agreement to implement the changes in the practice.
- Encourage the initiation of the preferred brand choices Mezolar[®] and Matrifen[®] patches for new patients i.e. DXS; Synonyms (SystemOne); protocol alerts (Emis Web).

SO WHAT?

- An increase in the number of items of fentanyl patches and Durogesic DTrans[®] prescribed as Mezolar[®] and Matrifen[®] as a total of all fentanyl patch prescribing.
- Reduction in prescribing fentanyl patches generically and as Durogesic DTrans[®].
- Reduction in the quantity of fentanyl patches (all brands) supplied per prescription.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Local pain guidelines - [LINK](#)
- Note: Durogesic[®] patches used to be reservoir patches but they have been discontinued and are now available as matrix patches under the name “Durogesic DTrans[®]”.

Matrix patch	12, 25, 37.5 (Mezolar [®] only), 50, 75,100 micrograms/hour	Durogesic DTrans [®] , Matrifen [®] , Fencino [®] , Mezolar [®] , Osmanil [®] , Victanyl [®]
Reservoir patch	25, 50, 75,100 micrograms/hour	Tilofyl [®] , Fentalis [®]

