



Safer Practice Notice

Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

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For Action By:

- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- EMS
- Physicians
- Clinical Educators

Contact:

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Management of Transdermal Medication Patches

Issues

Patients are at risk of overdose or other serious negative outcomes, including death when transdermal medication patches are not removed when indicated.

Writing directly on a patch may damage or tear the patch and ink may leach into the medication.

Action

Do:

- Confirm presence or absence of previously applied patch and if necessary remove the existing patch before applying a new one. Fold patch in half so adhesive side adheres to itself. Dispose in biomedical waste containers or non-wall mounted sharps containers located in a secure area (e.g. nursing station medication room).
- Apply patch to a new site each time choosing a site that is clean, dry, intact, non-shaven, and has the least hair.
- Record administration date & time on a small piece of medical tape and apply to edge of patch.
- Counsel patients to alert their healthcare provider if a patch is about to be re-applied without first removing previously applied patch.
- Record date, time, location, and number of patches applied and removed, in the patient care record or medication administration record (MAR) – paper or electronic.

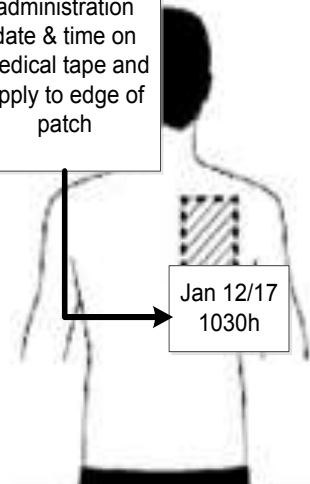
Do Not:

- Apply heat to the area where the patch is applied.

Note:

- Certain patches cannot be cut, nor worn in an MRI. If you have any questions about a medication patch please check with your local pharmacist.

Write
administration
date & time on
medical tape and
apply to edge of
patch



Perform the **Seven Rights** of medication administration:

- Right medication
- Right patient (use 2 unique identifiers)
- Right dose
- Right time & frequency
- Right route
- Right reason
- Right documentation