



22 April 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Fentanyl (Durogesic® DTrans®) 12 micrograms/hour, 25 micrograms/hour, 50 micrograms/hour, 75 micrograms/hour, and 100 micrograms/hour patches

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: December 2025

Issue

1. Durogesic® DTrans® 75 micrograms/hour patches are out of stock until December 2025.
2. Durogesic® DTrans® 12 micrograms/hour patches will be out of stock from late April until December 2025.
3. Durogesic® DTrans® 25 micrograms/hour and 50 micrograms/hour patches will be out of stock from late May until December 2025.
4. Durogesic® DTrans® 100 micrograms/hour patches will be out of stock from late June until December 2025.
5. Alternative brands of fentanyl **matrix** patches (Fencino®, Matrifen®, Mezolar®, Opiodur®, Yemex®) remain available and can support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

6. Prescribers should not initiate individuals on Durogesic® DTrans® (all strengths) until the supply issues have resolved.
7. Where an individual has insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply dates, prescribers should:
 - review and consider prescribing an alternative brand of fentanyl **matrix** patch that is available including: Fencino®, Matrifen®, Mezolar®, Opiodur®, Yemex® (see Additional Information section);
 - monitor and clinically assess the person's response and titrate dose if required;
 - ensure individuals are counselled on the change in brand and are not intolerant to any of the patch excipients (see Additional information section).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

8. Fentanyl transdermal patches are available as matrix (drug embedded in an adhesive matrix with the release rate determined by the physical properties of the matrix) and reservoir (drug held in a reservoir with a rate limiting membrane to control release of drug) formulations. These

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

two patch formulations should **not** be used interchangeably. To avoid confusion and ensure consistency of supply, it is recommended that all fentanyl patches are prescribed by brand name.

9. Durogesic® DTrans® is a **matrix** patch licensed for management of severe chronic pain that requires continuous long-term opioid administration.
10. When prescribing an alternative brand of fentanyl patch, the summary of product characteristics (SmPC) should be consulted for cautions, contraindications and excipients, as these may vary between products.
11. **CAUTION: Prescribers should be aware that Fencino® and Yemex® fentanyl patches contain soya oil and are contraindicated in patients with peanut/ soya allergy.**

Links to further information

- [SmPC Durogesic® DTrans® \(fentanyl\) patches](#)
- [SmPC Fencino® \(fentanyl\) patches](#)
- [SmPC Matrifen® \(fentanyl\) patches](#)
- [SmPC Mezolar® \(fentanyl\) patches](#)
- [SmPC Opiodur® \(fentanyl\) patches](#)
- [SmPC Yemex® \(fentanyl\) patches](#)
- [BNF Fentanyl](#)
- [Fentanyl patches | Right Decisions](#)
- [PrescQIPP - Opioid Patches](#)
- [SPS - Example medicines to prescribe by brand name in primary care](#)
- [MHRA - Transdermal fentanyl patches: life-threatening and fatal opioid toxicity from accidental exposure, particularly in children](#)
- [SPS- Using transdermal patches safely in healthcare settings](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

12. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
13. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

14. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).