

Berkshire West Area Prescribing Committee Policy Statement

Drug Name	Immediate release fentanyl products
Indication under review	Pain
Policy No:	APC 110
Date of Issue:	May 2015
Review Date:	May 2018
Policy Statement: Immediate release fentanyl products are not recommended except for cohorts of patients who have been trialled other short acting oral opioids such as oral morphine and on the recommendation of a specialist	
Traffic Light Status	Brown
Key Points considered:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no evidence that one is better than the other in terms of choice of spray, tablet etc. • Lozenges only work in patients with healthy normal mucosa. Most patients with pain will have a dry mouth. Tablets or sprays would be a better option for these patients if the product was required. • Patients who have a very sudden episodic short burst of pain requiring immediate relief of pain may benefit from using immediate release fentanyl products. • When an immediate fentanyl product must be used, ScriptSwitch to advise which is the most economically advantageous product, for a cohort of patients who are currently on opioid medication at dose of oral morphine equal or greater than 60mg / 24hrs or dose equivalence of alternative strong opioid. 	
References:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PrescQIPP DROP-List. Bulletin available at http://www.prescqipp.info/resources/viewcategory/171-drop-list 2. East of England, West Midlands, East Midlands prescribing data taken from ePACT April 2011 to March 2012. 3. NICE Clinical Guideline 140 – Opioids in palliative care. May 2012. http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG140/NICEGuidance/pdf/English 4. The British Pain Society 2010. Opioids for persistent pain: Good practice. A consensus statement. http://www.britishpainsociety.org/book_opioid_main.pdf 5. Rapid Response Report: Reducing Dosing Errors with Opioid Medicines 2008. NPSA/2008/RRR05. National Patient Safety Agency. http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?EntryId45=59888 6. Mercadante S. Pharmacotherapy for breakthrough cancer pain. Drugs 2012; 72 (2): 181-190 7. Davis M.P. Fentanyl for breakthrough pain: A systematic review. Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics 2011; 11 (8): 1197- 1216 8. Horsley W. Novel oramucosal (Abstral, Effentora) and nasal (Instanyl) fentanyl for breakthrough pain associated with cancer. North East Treatment Advisory Group Appraisal, September 2009. 9. Horsley W. Novel fentanyl products (Abstral, Effentora, Instanyl and PecFent) for breakthrough pain associated with cancer. North East Treatment Advisory Group Appraisal, July 2011. 10. Elsner F., Zeppetella G., Porta-Sales J., Tagarro I. Newer generation fentanyl transmucosal products for breakthrough pain in opioid-tolerant cancer patients. Clinical Drug Investigation 2011; 31 (9): 605-618 11. Drug Tariff November 2012 12. BNF 64 via http://www.bnf.org/bnf/index.htm Accessed 28th November 2012 13. Smith K. New Medicine Report – Fentanyl citrate oral and intranasal preparations. Suffolk PCT Drug & Therapeutics Committee. December 2009 14. Summary of Product Characteristics PecFent Updated: 14/11/12 Accessed online: 18/12/12 http://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/medicine/23962/SPC/ 15. Summary of Product Characteristics Instanyl 50, 100 and 200 mcg nasal spray, solution in single dose container Updated: 18/09/12 Accessed online:18/12/12 http://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/medicine/25133/SPC/ 16. Summary of Product Characteristics Effentora 100,200,400,600 and 800 micrograms buccal tablets Updated:05/12/11 Accessed online: 18/12/12 http://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/medicine/21401/SPC/ 17. Summary of Product Characteristics Abstral Sublingual Tablets Updated: 07/03/12 Accessed online: 18/12/12 http://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/medicine/21371/SPC/ 18. Summary of Product Characteristics Actiq Updated: 25/09/12 Accessed online: 18/12/12 http://www.medicines.org.uk/EMC/medicine/25551/SPC/ 19. Summary of Product Characteristics Oramorph Oral Solution Updated: 12/11/12 Accessed online: 18/12/12 http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/317/SPC/ 	
Date taken to APC:	6 th May 2015
Date Ratified by MMC on Behalf of the Board:	17 th June 2015

Berkshire West Area Prescribing Policies serve as a guide to clinicians. This does not overrule the clinical or budgetary responsibility of clinicians when considering treatment for individual patients.

Brown	Green	Amber	Red
These drugs have been reviewed and are not considered a cost effective use of scarce NHS resources	Medicines suitable for routine use. Primary care prescribers take full responsibility for prescribing	Medicines that should be initiated by a specialist and can be continued in primary care under a shared care agreement.	Medicines which should be prescribed by specialists only



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