



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ  
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

To: All Community Pharmacists

16<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear colleague

**Medicine Supply Notification: Fentanyl (Durogesic® DTrans®)**  
**12micrograms/hour, 25micrograms/hour, 50micrograms/hour,**  
**75micrograms/hour, and 100micrograms/hour patches**  
**Tier 2 – medium impact**

[Medicines Supply Tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

## Summary

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

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Prescribers should not initiate patients on Durogesic® DTrans® (all strengths) until the supply issues have resolved.

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply dates, clinicians should:

- review patients and consider prescribing an alternative brand of fentanyl matrix patch that is available including: Fencino®, Matrifen®, Mezolar®, Opiodur®, Yemex® (see Supporting Information);
- monitor and clinically assess the patient's response and titrate dose if required;
- ensure patients are counselled on the change in brand and are not intolerant to any of the patch excipients (see Supporting information).

## Actions Required

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

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

Durogesic® DTrans® is a **matrix** patch licensed for management of severe chronic pain that requires continuous long-term opioid administration.

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

**CAUTION:** Prescribers should be aware that Fencino® and Yemex® fentanyl patches contain soya oil and are contraindicated in patients with peanut/ soya allergy.

between products.



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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](#)

[HSCNI - Items Unsuitable for Generic Prescribing](#)

[MHRA - Transdermal fentanyl patches: life-threatening and fatal opioid toxicity from accidental exposure, particularly in children](#)

[SPS- Using transdermal patches safely in healthcare settings](#)