APPLICATION OF TRANSDERMAL PATCHES (e.g. Nicotine, Fentanyl)

FOR USE BY: registered healthcare practitioners

LIAISES WITH: Ward Managers, Lead Nurses, Medical staff and Pharmacy

Rationale:
To ensure the safe application of transdermal patches and prevent the duplication of administered patches.

On admission:
- If patient has a pre-existing patch(es) find out the location of this and check it corresponds with the in-patient prescription. If not alert the prescriber.
- Ensure that Patients Own medicines are removed from the patient’s possessions and securely locked away.

Administration:
- Follow medicines or controlled drug administration guidance
- Always ensure the previous patch is removed before applying a new one
- When touching the patch, try to avoid the medicated section

Documentation:
- Sign for the new patch on the drug chart
- Signing to administer a patch, also confirm that you have removed the existing patch if one is present

Disposal:
- Fold the patch in half sticking the 2 medicated sides together and discard in a sharps bin

Pharmacy patch reminders:
- Pharmacy when possible will stick a label on the drug chart reminding the nurse to look for old patch before applying new patch

Discharging patients with transdermal patches:
- Always fully inform patients and their caregivers about directions for the safe use of patches, including the importance of:
  - Not exceeding the prescribed dose
  - Following the correct frequency of patch application, avoiding touching the adhesive side of patches, and washing hands after application
  - Not cutting patches and avoiding exposure of patches to heat including via hot water (bath, shower)
  - Ensuring that old patches are removed before applying a new one
  - Following instructions for safe storage and properly disposing of used patches or those which are not needed
- Ensure that patients and caregivers are aware of the signs and symptoms of fentanyl overdose for example shallow breathing and confusion, and advise them to seek medical attention immediately (by dialing 999 and requesting an ambulance) if overdose is suspected.
- Patients who experience serious adverse events, remove patches immediately and monitor for up to 24 hours after patch removal.
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<td>Ensure the patient information leaflet is present and to encourage patients to read it</td>
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**ALWAYS ENSURE ALL RELEVANT ACTIONS ARE DOCUMENTED**