

transdermal fentanyl (Durogesic D Trans) Patches (No. 189/05)

Janssen-Cilag Product Update

10 June 2005

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and ADTCs on its use in NHS Scotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

ADVICE: following an abbreviated submission

Transdermal fentanyl (Durogesic D Trans[®]) patch is accepted for restricted use within NHSScotland for patients with chronic intractable pain due to non-malignant conditions.

It should be considered as a second-line alternative, reserved for patients whose pain has initially been controlled by oral means, the pain being stable. Its use should focus on patients who have difficulty swallowing or have problems with opiate-induced constipation.

This reiterates advice issued by SMC in January 2003 following the extension of the licence for transdermal fentanyl (Durogesic[®]) patch to include non-malignant pain. SMC has not assessed transdermal fentanyl in its original indication for intractable pain due to cancer.

Note that, although the new formulation is the same price as the previous patches, it remains significantly more expensive than oral therapy.

Advice context:

No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.

This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at after evaluation of the evidence submitted by the company. It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

This assessment is based on data submitted by the applicant company up to and including 13 April 2005.

Chairman, Scottish Medicines Consortium