

FENTANYL TABLET PROGRAM



WHAT IS A FENTANYL TABLET?

It is a tablet of fentanyl that is dissolved under the tongue or the side of your cheek.

WHY A FENTANYL TABLET PROGRAM?

Participants are prescribed fentanyl tablets to reduce their need to purchase unregulated opioids with unknown amounts of fentanyl and other unknown substances, reducing the risk of drug poisoning.

WHO IS IT FOR?

If you use unregulated fentanyl, this may be an option for you. You and a substance use care provider can discuss the appropriateness and accessibility of this intervention.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The tablets are covered under PharmaCare, including Plan G, Plan C, and Plan W for those eligible.

CAUTION!

Side effects of fentora may include: slowed breathing, nausea, vomiting, constipation, or drug poisoning resulting in death or brain injury

- Tell your care provider if you are on HIV medication, since it can interact with fentanyl tablets and increase your risk of a drug poisoning.
- Missing multiple doses may result in a reduced dose or the need to restart the program.
- Avoid using downers like alcohol and benzos, as they may interact with the fentanyl patch and increase the risk of drug toxicity (also called overdose).
- Tablets should not be chewed, sucked, swallowed, crushed, smoked, injected, or snorted because it will decrease the effectiveness.



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QUICK FACTS

WHAT IS A FENTANYL TABLET PROGRAM?

- It is designed to help reduce harms associated with the unregulated drug supply.
- Fentanyl tablets are dissolved under the tongue or on the side of your cheek.
- Some people may only want or need fentanyl tablets. Others may need the tablets with other forms of harm reduction, or the tablets on top of their methadone or Kadian treatment. **Fentanyl tablets should not be used on top of Suboxone treatment.**
- Based on real-life experience, some people have been able to reduce or stop using unregulated fentanyl once they report feeling stable on fentanyl tablets.
- Some programs are starting to offer this option, however, local accessibility may vary.
- This is not an approved treatment for opioid use disorder as there is no current research evidence to support the use of fentanyl patches in this way.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- **You and your health care provider will work together** to decide if trying fentanyl tablets is right for you.
- A physician or nurse practitioner can prescribe fentanyl tablets.
- If you feel like you need a higher dose, discuss with your care provider.
- In the beginning of the program, you will need to attend a clinic or pharmacy a few times a day to receive your medication.
- During the first few doses (and after a dose increase), you will be asked to stay for 25 minutes after taking the fentanyl tablet to monitor you for sedation. After this, you do not need to stay.

Two fentanyl tablet programs are available to suit your needs:

- 1) *Maintenance program*: Adjustable dose given at least 3 hours apart. May be more suitable for people who need higher doses.
- 2) *As-needed program*: Fixed dose given at least 3 hours apart.



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