

January 20, 2014
To All Medical Staff at the
North Bay Regional Health Centre

Update: Fentanyl Patch 4 Patch Policy

Dear Colleagues,

On December 6, 2013 the "Fentanyl Patch 4 Patch" policy was implemented across the District of Nipissing. As with many new programs there are often a few issues that surface. We recently discovered that some patients have been getting around the accountability of the program by leaving the district to have their prescriptions filled, so we amended our policy to stop this.

All physicians are now requested to determine from their patient, which pharmacy and location they will fill the prescription at, and document that as part of the prescription. **This makes the prescription only legal at that pharmacy.** As you know, we have the responsibility for safe prescribing, so we have the obligation to decline to prescribe in an unsafe manner, which in our community it has become apparent includes allowing fentanyl patches to be prescribed to a pharmacy that does not participate in patch for patch exchange. Note that ALL local pharmacies are now participating (the holdout Walmart was the last to come on board).

So for the purpose of the **Fentanyl Patch 4 Patch policy**, physicians write on the prescription the actual **pharmacy and location** to which the prescription will be dispensed.

Example: Duraqesic 50 q3days x 10patches To be filled at -- Drug store XY, North Bay

Whenever possible, please fax the specified prescription to that pharmacy.

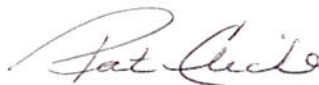
A three month evaluation of the process will be undertaken at the various pharmacies and Enforcement. Physicians are asked to forward all their concerns to Dr. Paul Preston or Pat Cliche (pat17@sympatico.ca.)

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely



Dr. P. Preston
Department of General & Family Practice
Medical Director of Primary Care



Pat Cliche
North Bay & Area Drug Strategy
Northern IP Coordinator (OIPRC)