

## Destruction of Fentanyl Patches

### WHY?

Substantial amount of fentanyl remain in the patch after removal creating the potential for abuse, misuse, diversion, or accidental exposure. Given the multiple **Black Box Warnings** for severe adverse events, dispositioning this drug product must include a step to ensure residual drug is irretrievable.

### HOW?

[FDA](#) and [manufacturer](#) instructions recommend folding the patch in half with the sticky sides together and flushing the patch down the sink or toilet.

### REGULATION

- **F-tag 755** of **42 CFR §483.45** (Pharmacy Services) of the [State Operations Manual](#) (SOM) charges facilities with establishing secure and safe methods for disposal of controlled medications to prevent diversion and/or accidental exposure.
- **Section D** enumerates criteria for controlled substances, including this unique guidance for fentanyl patches.

### HELPFUL HINTS

- Destruction of fentanyl patches should ALWAYS be recorded in writing, attested to, and witnessed by **at least 2** qualified and designated facility personnel.
- **The FDA Flush List** (below) outlines other sufficiently potent medications that may provide significant harm with a single dose; consider flushing these items if exposure risk exists via conventional disposal methods.

### FLUSH LIST

Active Ingredient	Found in Brand Names...
Benzhydrocodone/ Acetaminophen	Apadaz
Buprenorphine	Belbuca, Bunavail, Butrans, Suboxone, Subutex, Zubsolv
Fentanyl	Abstral, Actiq, Duragesic, Fentora, Onsolis
Hydrocodone	Hysingla ER, Norco, Vicodin, Vicoprofen, Zohydro ER
Hydromorphone	Dilaudid, Exalgo
Meperidine	Demerol
Methadone	Dolophine, Methadose
Methylphenidate	Daytrana transdermal patch system
Morphine	Embeda, Kadian, Morphabond ER, MS Contin, Avinza
Oxycodone	OxyContin, Percocet, Roxicet, Roxicodone, Xtampza ER
Oxymorphone	Opana, Opana ER
Sodium Oxybate	Xyrem oral solution
Tapentadol	Nucynta, Nucynta ER

### DON'T FORGET THE EPA AND YOUR LOCAL STATE'S LAWS!

The EPA's 2019 Final Rule includes the Sewer Ban that restricts any **hazardous waste pharmaceuticals** from being flushed down the toilet or down the drain, and more restrictive state laws may supersede this guidance. Always reference these sources before flushing!