



*L-Uffiċċju tal-Uffiċjal Mediku Ewlieni*

*Office of the Chief Medical Officer*

**DH CIRCULAR No.72/2014**  
DH 835/2014

26 February 2014

**Attention All:** Consultants  
Medical Officers  
Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Technicians  
Nurses

**Re: Fentanyl 25mcg and 50mcg Transdermal Patches**

Fentanyl 25mcg and 50mcg transdermal patches have been recommended by the Government Formulary List Advisory Committee and approved by the Superintendent of Public Health for introduction onto the Government Formulary List.

Fentanyl, a phenylpiperidine derivative, is a potent opioid analgesic chemically related to pethidine.

Fentanyl transdermal patches are protocol-regulated with protocol number 67 (attached) and can be prescribed by Consultant Oncologists and Consultants Palliative Care.

Fentanyl 25mcg and 50mcg transdermal patches have been procured through the Central Procurement and Supplies Unit and are now available for use as per protocol.

For your attention please

Dr. Neville Calleja  
A/Chief Medical Officer

## **Fentanyl 25mcg and 50mcg Transdermal Patches**

**Prescriber Criteria:** Consultant Oncologist  
Consultant Palliative Care

**Out-patient and In-patient use:**

1. Malignant Diseases

To be reserved for the management of chronic intractable pain due to cancer:

- As a second-line alternative, for patients whose pain has initially been controlled by oral morphine or methadone.
- In patients who have difficulty swallowing or have problems with opiate-induced constipation.
- In patients with renal failure

**Duration of Approval:**

6 months