What is the Fentanyl Patch 4 Patch Initiative?
Doctors, pharmacies, and patients work together to promote the safe use of fentanyl patches. You are asked to return any patches you receive back to the pharmacy before you can receive more.

How does the Patch 4 Patch Initiative work?
Your doctor should direct the pharmacy to collect used or unused patches before dispensing the next set of patches. Your doctor may also put in place a treatment agreement between themselves, the pharmacy, and you, which outlines the conditions for safe use of your fentanyl patch prescription.

Why can’t I just return my used patches to my doctor when I get my next prescription?
Doctors often do not have a system set up for the safe disposal of medications. Pharmacies have a system available to them at no charge. Pharmacists see patients more often and handle new and discarded medications daily.

Why can’t I just dispose of my patches at home?
Fentanyl patches, along with other medications (pills, ointments, liquids, vitamins, over-the-counter drugs and herbal remedies) are considered hazardous waste. This means they need to be safely disposed of to prevent poisonings, injuries and misuse as well as protecting the environment. All pharmacies already have a system in place to do this.

What if I only bring back 8 out of 10 patches?
Then you only get one (1) patch at your next refill, either until you return your patches, or your pharmacy contacts your physician. If it happens again, you may need to see your doctor to decide if it is appropriate to continue the prescription.

For my first prescription there will be only 9 out of 10 patches returned.
Yes, that is expected to happen on your first prescription because you will still be wearing a patch when you go to the pharmacy for your next refill.

How should I store my fentanyl patches?
Stick any used patches on the other side of this sheet, so that each patch can easily be recognized and accounted for by your pharmacy. Store your used patches in a safe and secure place out of sight and reach of children and pets. Fentanyl patches can cause serious unwanted effects or fatal overdose if taken by children, pets, or adults who are not used to strong pain medicines.

What If I am going on vacation and need a larger supply of patches?
You will need to contact your doctor to get authorization for any changes to your prescription, including getting a larger supply of patches. If you are receiving more patches than usual, you should return them all in order to receive your next refill, even if your refill is for a smaller amount.

What should I do if my medications are delivered?
Pharmacy delivery personnel should be advised of the need to collect your used patches. Just like they collect money, drug cards, expired medications, and signatures, they are also expected to collect and return your used fentanyl patches to the pharmacy. When your fentanyl patch prescription is delivered, both you and the delivery personnel should sign the delivery record to show that used patches were picked up from you.

What if I stop taking this medication or have unused patches left over?
Please make sure you, your caregiver, or the delivery personnel collects all of your fentanyl patches to return for disposal at the pharmacy.

What should I do if I am being pressured to sell my medication?
Selling this medication is illegal. Please talk to your physician, pharmacist, or the police if this happens.

What should I do if I feel my fentanyl use is getting out of control?
Please talk to your health care provider for help and more information.

Are you concerned about having a fentanyl overdose?
The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit offers free training to respond to opioid overdoses using a medication called naloxone. Please call the Health Unit for more information at 1-800-660-5853 or visit our website at http://www.healthunit.org/harmreduction/revive.html

Adapted from resources made available by the Peterborough County-City Health Unit