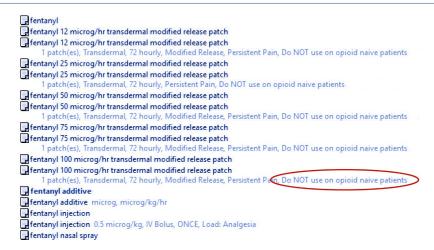
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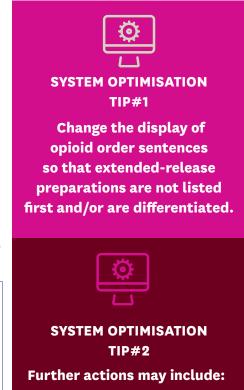
Accidental prescribing of extended-release opioids

Errors with the prescribing of extended-release opioids in opioidnaïve patients have led to serious patient harm. These errors are number one in the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Top 10 Medication Errors and Hazards from 2020.

To avoid inadvertent selection of fentanyl patches, these should appear below other preparations or be differentiated in the dropdown menu. The example below shows how this can be done. The order sentence has the warning "Do NOT use on opioid naïve patients". High risk medicine order sentences can be further differentiated using coloured font.

Example: Order sentence display for fentanyl with information to avoid use of patches in opioid naïve patients





- Default to the lowest initial starting dose and frequency on initiation
- Interactive decision support to confirm opioid tolerance

REFERENCES

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Disclaimer: These recommendations are based on issues identified during various programs of research undertaken by Macquarie University. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list and should be considered by individual care settings for appropriateness prior to implementation. A more detailed review of the issue and impact may also be warranted. The content of this document is intended for information purposes only.



