

## **Patient/carer's guide to PecFent® (fentanyl citrate)**

**Dear Patient/carer,**

Please read this information card very carefully and follow the instructions below to ensure the efficacy and safety of the treatment. If you have any further questions, please contact your prescribing doctor or pharmacist.

**This guide will address the following:**

- **Cancer and Pain**
- **PecFent: What is it? How do I use it?**
- **PecFent: Risk of misuse**

### **Cancer and pain**

Many people who are suffering from cancer will experience regular pain.

This ongoing and continuous pain is sometimes called "background pain". However, people that experience background pain may also experience periods of particularly severe and intense pain that "breaks through" the regular or background pain. This is known as breakthrough cancer pain (BTcP).

BTcP usually:

- Comes on very quickly
- Is severe and intense, "breaking through" your background pain relief medication
- Rarely lasts more than 30 minutes
- Is not controlled by normal background pain medication
- Can be predictable or unpredictable (and it can be brought on by activities such as walking, coughing or sneezing)

As BTcP comes on so quickly and is very intense, it needs a specially designed medicine to tackle the pain, which is different to your background cancer pain medicine. The medicines for breakthrough pain are fast-acting and provide pain relief which lasts for about the same amount of time as an episode of breakthrough pain. The experience of pain is different for everyone. It is therefore very important that you talk to the doctors and nurses looking after you, so that they can find the right type and dose of painkillers to control the type of pain you are experiencing. You shouldn't feel worried about saying that your pain is not properly controlled. Your doctors and nurses are there to help you.

### **PecFent: What is it? How do I use it?**

#### **What is it?**

Your doctor prescribed you a medicine called PecFent, which contains the active substance fentanyl.

This medicine is to be used only if patients/carers have received the proper information regarding the use of the device and the safety precautions

PecFent is not the same as other fentanyl products you may have used and the dosage may need to be adjusted if you are switching from a different product. Use PecFent only as directed by your doctor or pharmacist.

PecFent is intended for adults who are already be taking strong pain-relieving medicine (opioids) for their persistent BTcP but require treatment for this.

PecFent should not be used to treat any other short-term pain or pain status and/or for treatment of more than 4 breakthrough cancer pain episodes a day.

Formulations of PecFent are not interchangeable.

You must read the instructions for use indicated in the patient leaflet, in order to ensure correct use of the product.

### **How do I use it?**

PecFent is contained in a clear glass bottle, fitted with a pump which delivers an exact dose of medicine with each spray. PecFent is only to be used by spraying into your nostril. The PecFent bottle must always be stored in the child-resistant container.

Before administering a dose, the spray must be primed (prepared for use). After priming, the spray can deliver eight full sprays.

Your patient information leaflet in the box will provide you instructions on how to prime the bottle and how to use.

- The dose for the treating breakthrough pain can be one or two sprays (one in each nostril).
- Your doctor will instruct you in how many sprays (1 or 2) you should use to treat a breakthrough pain episode.
- If your doctor has ordered a two spray dosage, you must perform one spray in each nostril and NOT two sprays in one nostril.
- Do not exceed the dose prescribed by the doctor for each episode of breakthrough pain.
- Do not use PecFent more than four times a day.
- Wait at least 4 hours before taking the next PecFent dose.
- Do not exceed the recommended dose or change the dosage on your own accord.
- Tell your doctor immediately if you experience more than 4 breakthrough pain episodes a day.
- If you are not sure about the proper dosage or how many sprays of PecFent to use, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

### **PecFent: Risk of misuse**

If you have not been regularly taking or using a prescribed strong pain relief medication (opioid) to control your regular pain for at least 1 week before starting your breakthrough cancer pain medication, PecFent could cause severe side-effects, including breathing difficulties. These may include an increased risk of breathing becoming dangerously slow and/or shallow, or even stop.

As with other similar pain medicines, PecFent can cause some side-effects and does carry a risk of accidental overdose and a risk of abuse. Your doctor should inform you how to minimise these risks.

If you suspect you are developing side-effects following the use of PecFent, you should contact your doctor who will help you to ascertain whether the medication is suitable for you. If you are unsure, ask your doctor.

If you do experience any of the side-effects listed there or experience any other effects which you think are related to taking PecFent, inform your doctor and report using the information below. They may be able to help reduce these while ensuring that you continue treatment.

You should not use more than the dose your doctor prescribes for any single breakthrough pain episode. If your doses are taken too often, or too close together, there is a greater risk of serious side-effects.

If you follow the instructions on how to take PecFent and follow the advice of your healthcare provider on how many PecFent doses to take, it is extremely unlikely that you will take too much.

However, in the event of an overdose you may feel very drowsy, very dizzy and/or may feel short of breath with only slow or shallow breathing. In the event of an overdose, take the following steps:

Do not take any further doses of PecFent:

- Tell someone nearby (another person in your house or your nurse/ carer) what has happened.
- Immediately contact your designated healthcare provider or other emergency medical help (e.g., an ambulance).
- Your nurse/carer should keep you awake by talking to you or shaking you gently now and again.

If you think someone has taken PecFent by accident, seek emergency medical help immediately.

PecFent contains an active substance in an amount that can be fatal to a child (and should not be used by anyone under 18).

Inappropriate use of this medicine may lead to dependence. Inform your healthcare provider immediately if you think you are becoming dependent on PecFent or your regular strong pain-relieving (opioid) medication.

The risk of developing a condition called serotonin syndrome may increase if you are taking PecFent together with certain other medications. These medicines include antidepressants, medicines that are used for some types of psychiatric disorders, anti-sickness medications and other pain killers.

As with other similar pain medicines, PecFent may interact with these medicines and you may experience a number and range of side-effects, details of which are described in the patient information leaflet.

You should call an ambulance or ask someone to call one immediately if you feel very dizzy or faint, very sleepy, get slow/shallow breathing and/or get cold clammy skin, look pale, have a weak pulse or other signs of shock.

If you experience nosebleeds or nasal discomfort, you should contact your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have liver or kidney problems as this can affect the way in which your body breaks down the medicine.

#### **ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING**

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions.

**Adverse events should be reported to the Medicines & Healthcare Regulatory Authority via the Yellow Card reporting site <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> OR search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store**

**Adverse events should also be reported to Kyowa Kirin International Plc by email: [medinfo@kyowakirin.com](mailto:medinfo@kyowakirin.com) OR Telephone: (01896) 664000 (option 1)**

Date of preparation: March 2023