

## Transdermal Medications

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### Policy

Transdermal Medications are to be administered and managed correctly and safely, by approved personnel

### Purpose

To ensure the correct and safe administration and management of transdermal medications (patches) by approved personnel

### Scope/Audience

Nurses/Midwives/Students of Nursing and Midwifery according to their scope as per the CDHB Students Responsibilities with Fluid and Medication Management Policy/Approved persons

### Associated documents

Limited Registered Nurse Administration of Nicotine Replacement Therapy CDHB Fluid and Medication Management Manual

### Policy statements

- Follow specific instructions for the use of each patch.
- Confirm how frequently the patch is to be replaced. Frequency can vary from x hours each day to weekly.
- Do not cut patches unless the instructions with the product allow this or specific advice is received from pharmacy or Drug

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Information. Cutting or covering a portion of the patch to obtain different doses can alter the delivery of the medicine.

- If the product is supplied as two parts, an active patch containing the medication and an adhesive patch to stick to the skin ensure they are attached in the intended manner
- Continue to monitor for adverse effects after the patch is removed.
- Ensure any patches charted 'STAT' are removed at an appropriate time interval
- Dispose of patches safely by folding in half (sticky sides together) and placing in a sharps bin (hospital situation).
- Remember to wash your hands after handling a patch as some medication may rub off on your fingers.

**Please Note:**

- If a patch does not stick properly use waterproof tape around the edges of the patch to aid adhesion. If a patch falls off it can be reapplied providing it is not damaged or dirty. Use waterproof tape around the edges and ensure the patch is in firm contact with the skin. Or a new patch can be applied to a different area. This should be documented on the medication chart and in the clinical notes.
- Check that a patient is not wearing patches prior to MRI, diathermy, defibrillation and cardioversion procedures. Patches that contain any metallic component can burn skin if worn during application of electrical or magnetic fields. Refer to references below. Consult radiology/theatre.

## Lippincott procedure and references

### [Transdermal patch application](#)

## Measurement/Evaluation

Incident Management Process

## Policy References

www.mrisafety.com Transdermal medication patches and other drug delivery patches; Retrieved on the 7/5/2014 from

<http://www.mrisafety.com/SafetyInfov.asp?SafetyInfoID=198>

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<b>Policy Owner</b>	Pharmacy Services and the CDHB Fluid and Medication Management Committee
<b>Policy Authoriser</b>	CMO & EDON
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