



Compliance Alert

August 20, 2008

Express Scripts – Urgent –Emerging Therapeutic Issue

Recently, Watson Pharmaceuticals announced a single lot recall of 75 mcg per hour fentanyl patches. Fentanyl patches are approved for the treatment of moderate to severe chronic pain. This recall has been issued due to a small chance that the patches may leak fentanyl gel into the pouch. This could result in exposing patients or caregivers directly to fentanyl gel. Exposure to fentanyl gel may lead to serious adverse events, including respiratory depression and possible overdose, which may be fatal.

All of the recalled 75 mcg per hour fentanyl patches are from Lot Number 92461850 and have an expiration date of August 31, 2009. No other strengths or lots are being recalled. For more information about this recall or for information on how to return the recalled patches, you can call the company directly at 888.667.1508, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

Express Scripts' response:

- In an effort to inform members of this recall, we have identified members who have received a prescription for 75mcg per hour fentanyl patch from Watson Pharmaceuticals within the past 120 days. A communication summarizing the information provided by the manufacturer will be sent to these members.
- A physician communication will also be distributed (with member profiles) due to the potential exposure risk to any who may come in contact with a leaky patch.
- These communications will be distributed for those clients enrolled in the member and physician portions of the Emerging Therapeutic Issues Patient Safety Program, respectively.
- Express Scripts will also distribute letters to all patients who have filled a prescription for a recalled patch using Express Scripts Home Delivery services.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Group Benefit Services Account Manager at 1.800.638.6085.

This communication is not intended to be legal advice and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any legal questions or concerns about your plan, GBS recommends seeking counsel from an ERISA attorney.

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