

Patient
 Information

Alfentanil sterile nasal (nose) / oromucosal (mouth) spray solution 5mg in 5ml

Introduction

This leaflet explains how to use the alfentanil solution you have been given and how to get further supplies. This solution has been chosen especially to treat the type of pain you are having at the moment. You should only use alfentanil solution as told by your doctor or nurse. Never share or lend your medicines.

What is in your medicine?

The solution contains alfentanil which is an opioid analgesic (pain relief) and is a fast acting treatment for your pain. Each 5ml bottle contains about 35 sprays. Each spray provides 140 microgram of alfentanil.

How your medicine looks before assembly

The medicine comes in a white and blue cardboard box. Inside the box is an amber glass bottle containing alfentanil solution (1) and a clear plastic bag containing three white plastic parts: the pump mechanism (2), the mouth spray head (3) and the nose spray head (4).

Please note that the label on the bottle may look different to the one in the image (Figure 1) below.

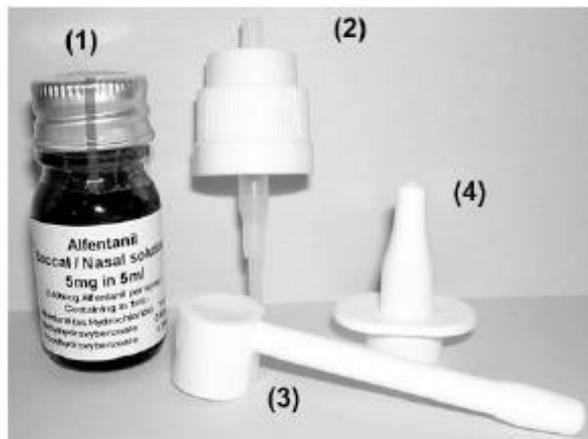


Figure 1: Alfentanil solution bottle and plastic parts

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Your doctor or nurse will have told you which spray head you need to use. Only assemble your pump spray just before you need to use it.

How to assemble your pump spray

Open the plastic bag and push the required spray head (3 or 4) onto the short plastic tube coming out of the top of the pump mechanism (2). Open the glass bottle (discard the cap as it is no longer needed) and screw the pump mechanism, plus spray head onto the bottle.

How long does the pump spray last?

Once the pump spray has been assembled, it can only be used for 28 days. Any remaining solution after this time must be carefully discarded down a sink or returned to your local pharmacy for disposal.

What to do before you use the pump spray for the first time

Before the pump spray is used for the first time, it will need to be primed. If the nose spray head has been attached, remove the clear plastic cap. You will then need to fully press the spray button repeatedly (usually 2 or 3 times) until you can see the solution spraying from the spray head. This is to fill the pump mechanism and only needs to be done when first setting up the pump spray, not before each use.

How to use the pump spray and dose

The number of sprays and how often you should use the pump spray will have been explained to you by your doctor or nurse.

For oromucosal (mouth) administration, spray into the inside of your cheek; try not to swallow the liquid. If the amount of liquid in your mouth becomes too much to keep in without swallowing, then do not use any more sprays.

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For nasal (nose) administration, blow your nose first if necessary. Hold the pump spray upright and bend your head slightly forward. Close one nostril by placing your finger against the side of your nose and insert the spray tip into the other nostril. Press the pump once quickly while inhaling through your nose.

The usual dose is between 2 and 12 sprays. Try 1 to 2 sprays in each cheek/nostril to start with and if you are still not getting enough pain relief, try more sprays up to a maximum of 6 sprays in each cheek/nostril. If you are still not getting any benefit at the maximum dose, you should speak to your doctor or nurse.

Obtaining your sprays after you leave the hospital

This preparation will not be instantly available from your local pharmacy as it is made as a special (unlicensed) item by Torbay Pharmaceuticals in Devon and has to be purchased directly from them by the pharmacy.

Please bear in mind that your GP will need some time to produce the prescription (usually 48 hours), and your pharmacist will need at least 5 working days to get the alfentanil solution. Show this leaflet to the pharmacist at your local pharmacy where you would want your prescription to be dispensed.

The pharmacist will need to email torbaypharmaceuticals@nhs.net for an Account Application Form and further information on how to complete and place an order.

The telephone number for the manufacturing unit at Torbay Hospital is 01803 664 707 and their fax number is 01803 664 354.

Who can give you further information?

Your palliative care doctor or nurse will be able to help you.

**Patient
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Palliative Care Team

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 4225 179

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

(Answer phone only on a Friday)

Palliative Care Team

Cheltenham General Hospital

Tel: 0300 4223 447

Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 5:00pm

Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Community Specialist Palliative Care Team

Tel: 0300 4225 370

Based at Beacon House, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Sue Ryder

Leckhampton Court Hospice

Tel: 01242 230 199

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

This leaflet has been prepared by the Medicines Information Department at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, on behalf of the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Palliative Care Team.

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