

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use ABSTRAL safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for ABSTRAL.

ABSTRAL<sup>®</sup> (fentanyl) sublingual tablets CII  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1968

#### WARNING: RISK OF RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION, MEDICATION ERRORS, ABUSE POTENTIAL

*See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.*

- Due to the risk of fatal respiratory depression, ABSTRAL is contraindicated in opioid non-tolerant patients (1) and in management of acute or postoperative pain, including headache/migraines. (4)
- Keep out of reach of children. (5.3)
- Use with CYP3A4 inhibitors may cause fatal respiratory depression. (7)
- When prescribing, do not convert patients on a mcg per mcg basis from any other oral transmucosal fentanyl product to ABSTRAL. (2.1, 5.2)
- When dispensing, do not substitute with any other fentanyl products. (5.2)
- Contains fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance with abuse liability similar to other opioid analgesics. (9.1)
- ABSTRAL is available only through a restricted program called the TIRF REMS Access program. Outpatients, healthcare professionals who prescribe to outpatients, pharmacies, and distributors are required to enroll in the program. (5.10)

#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ABSTRAL is an opioid agonist indicated for the management of breakthrough pain in cancer patients 18 years of age and older who are already receiving and who are tolerant to opioid therapy for their underlying persistent cancer pain. (1)

Limitations of Use:

ABSTRAL may be dispensed only to patients enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program.

#### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Patients must require and use around-the-clock opioids when taking ABSTRAL (1)
- Initial dose of ABSTRAL: 100 mcg. (2.1)
- Individually titrate to a tolerable dose that provides adequate analgesia. (2.1)
- No more than two doses can be taken per breakthrough pain episode. (2.1)
- Wait at least 2 hours before treating another episode of breakthrough pain with ABSTRAL. (2.1)
- Limit consumption to treat four or fewer breakthrough pain episodes per day once a successful dose is found. (2.3)

Administer on the floor of the mouth directly under the tongue and allow to completely dissolve. (2.4)

#### DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Sublingual tablet in 100 mcg, 200 mcg, 300 mcg, 400 mcg, 600 mcg and 800 mcg strengths. (3)

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Opioid non-tolerant patients. (4)
- Management of acute or postoperative pain including headache/migraines dental pain. (4)
- Intolerance or hypersensitivity to fentanyl or components of ABSTRAL. (4)

#### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Clinically significant respiratory and CNS depression can occur. Monitor patients accordingly. (5.1, 5.4)
- Do not convert patients on a mcg per mcg basis from another fentanyl product to ABSTRAL. (5.2)
- ABSTRAL contains fentanyl in a dose that can be fatal to a child. Ensure proper storage and disposal. (5.3, 16.3)
- Use with other CNS depressants and potent cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors may increase depressant effects including hypoventilation, hypotension, and profound sedation. Consider dosage adjustments if warranted. (5.4, 7)
- Titrate ABSTRAL cautiously in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or pre-existing medical conditions predisposing them to hypoventilation, and in patients susceptible to intracranial effects of CO<sub>2</sub> retention. (5.6, 5.7)

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

- Most common (total frequency ≥ 3%): nausea, somnolence, headache, and constipation. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Galena Biopharma, Inc. at 1-888-227-8725 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

#### DRUG INTERACTIONS

- See Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions (5)

#### USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Administer ABSTRAL with caution to patients with renal or hepatic dysfunction. (8.6)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and Medication Guide.

Revised: July 2013

**FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS \***

**WARNINGS: RISK OF RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION,**

**MEDICATION ERRORS, ABUSE POTENTIAL**

**1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

**2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 2.1 Dose Titration
- 2.2 Maintenance Therapy
- 2.3 Dose Re-adjustment
- 2.4 Administration of ABSTRAL
- 2.5 Discontinuation of Therapy

**3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

**4 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

**5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- 5.1 Hypoventilation (Respiratory Depression)
- 5.2 ABSTRAL and Other Fentanyl Products)
- 5.3 Patient/Caregiver Instructions
- 5.4 Additive CNS Depressant Effects
- 5.5 Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines
- 5.6 Chronic Pulmonary Disease
- 5.7 Head Injuries and Increased Intracranial Pressure
- 5.8 Cardiac Disease
- 5.9 MAO Inhibitors
- 5.10 Transmucosal immediate Release Fentanyl (TIRF) Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Access Program

**6 ADVERSE REACTIONS**

- 6.1 Clinical Studies Experience

**7 DRUG INTERACTIONS**

**8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

- 8.1 Pregnancy - Category C
- 8.2 Labor and Delivery
- 8.3 Nursing Mothers
- 8.4 Pediatric Use

- 8.5 Geriatric Use
- 8.6 Patients with Renal and Hepatic Impairment
- 8.7 Gender

**9 DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

- 9.1 Controlled Substance
- 9.2 Abuse and Addiction
- 9.3 Dependence

**10 OVERDOSAGE**

- 10.1 Clinical Presentation
- 10.2 Immediate Management
- 10.3 Treatment of Overdosage (Accidental Ingestion) in the Opioid non-Tolerant Person
- 10.4 Treatment of Overdosage in Opioid-Tolerant Patients
- 10.5 General Considerations for Overdose

**11 DESCRIPTION**

**12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

- 12.1 Mechanism of Action
- 12.2 Pharmacodynamics
- 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

**13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY**

- 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

**14 CLINICAL STUDIES**

**16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING**

- 16.1 Storage and Handling
- 16.2 Disposal of ABSTRAL
- 16.3 How Supplied

**17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION**

- 17.1 Patient/Caregiver Instructions
- 17.2 Disposal of Unopened ABSTRAL Blister Packages When No Longer Needed

\* Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed

---

## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### WARNING: RISK OF RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION, MEDICATION ERRORS, ABUSE POTENTIAL

#### **RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION**

Fatal respiratory depression has occurred in patients treated with immediate-release transmucosal fentanyl, including following use in opioid non-tolerant patients and improper dosing. The substitution of ABSTRAL for any other fentanyl product may result in fatal overdose.

Due to the risk of respiratory depression, ABSTRAL is contraindicated in the management of acute or postoperative pain including headache/migraine and in opioid non-tolerant patients. [see *Contraindications (4)*]

ABSTRAL must be kept out of reach of children. [see *Patient Counseling Information (17.1) and How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16.1)*]

The concomitant use of ABSTRAL with CYP3A4 inhibitors may result in an increase in fentanyl plasma concentrations, and may cause potentially fatal respiratory depression. [see *Drug Interactions (7)*]

#### **MEDICATION ERRORS**

Substantial differences exist in the pharmacokinetic profile of ABSTRAL compared to other fentanyl products that result in clinically important differences in the extent of absorption of fentanyl that could result in fatal overdose.

- When prescribing, do not convert patients on a mcg per mcg basis from any other fentanyl products to ABSTRAL. (2.1)
- When dispensing, do not substitute an ABSTRAL prescription for other fentanyl products.

#### **ABUSE POTENTIAL**

ABSTRAL contains fentanyl, an opioid agonist and a Schedule II controlled substance, with an abuse liability similar to other opioid analgesics. ABSTRAL can be abused in a manner similar to other opioid agonists, legal or illicit. This should be considered when prescribing or dispensing ABSTRAL in situations where the physician or pharmacist is concerned about an increased risk of misuse, abuse or diversion.

Because of the risk for misuse, abuse, addiction, and overdose, ABSTRAL is available only through a restricted program, required by the Food and Drug Administration, called a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS). Under the TIRF (Transmucosal Immediate Release Fentanyl) REMS Access program, outpatients, healthcare professionals who prescribe to outpatients, pharmacies, and distributors must enroll in the program [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.10)*]. Further information is available at [www.TIRFREMSAccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSAccess.com) or by calling 1-866-822-1483.

## 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ABSTRAL (fentanyl) sublingual tablets are indicated for the management of breakthrough pain in cancer patients 18 years of age and older who are already receiving and who are tolerant to opioid therapy for their underlying persistent cancer pain. Patients considered opioid tolerant are those who are taking around-the-clock medicine consisting of at least 60 mg of oral morphine daily, or at least 25 mcg of transdermal fentanyl/hour, or at least 30 mg of oral oxycodone daily, or at least 8 mg of oral hydromorphone daily or at least 25 mg oral oxymorphone daily, or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid medication daily for a week or longer. Patients must remain on around-the-clock opioids when taking ABSTRAL.

ABSTRAL is contraindicated for patients who are not already tolerant to opioids because life-threatening respiratory depression and death could result at any dose in patients not on a chronic regimen of opioids. For this reason, ABSTRAL is contraindicated in the management of acute or postoperative pain, including headache/migraine, dental pain, or use in the emergency room.

ABSTRAL is intended to be prescribed only by healthcare professionals who are knowledgeable of, and skilled in, the use of Schedule II opioids to treat cancer pain.

#### Limitations of Use:

As a part of the TIRF REMS Access program, ABSTRAL may be dispensed only to outpatients enrolled in the

program [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.10)]. For inpatient administration of ABSTRAL (e.g., hospitals, hospices, and long-term care facilities that prescribe for inpatient use), patient and prescriber enrollment is not required.

## 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Healthcare professionals who prescribe ABSTRAL on an outpatient basis must enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program and comply with the requirements of the REMS to ensure safe use of ABSTRAL [See *Warnings and Precautions* (5.10)].

As with all opioids, the safety of patients using such products is dependent on health care professionals prescribing them in strict conformity with their approved labeling with respect to patient selection, dosing, and proper conditions for use.

### 2.1 Dose Titration

The objective of dose titration is to identify an effective and tolerable maintenance dose for ongoing management of breakthrough cancer pain episodes. The effective and tolerable dose of ABSTRAL will be determined by dose titration in individual patients.

Carefully supervise patients until a dose that provides adequate analgesia with tolerable side effects is reached for breakthrough pain control.

**Starting Dose:** Individually titrate ABSTRAL to a dose that provides adequate analgesia with tolerable side effects. Begin titration of **all** patients with an initial dose of ABSTRAL of 100 mcg. Due to differences in the pharmacokinetic properties and individual variability, even patients switching from other fentanyl containing products to ABSTRAL must start with the 100 mcg dose. ABSTRAL is not equivalent on a mcg per mcg basis with all other fentanyl products, therefore, do not switch patients on a mcg per mcg basis from any other fentanyl product. ABSTRAL is NOT a generic version of any other fentanyl product.

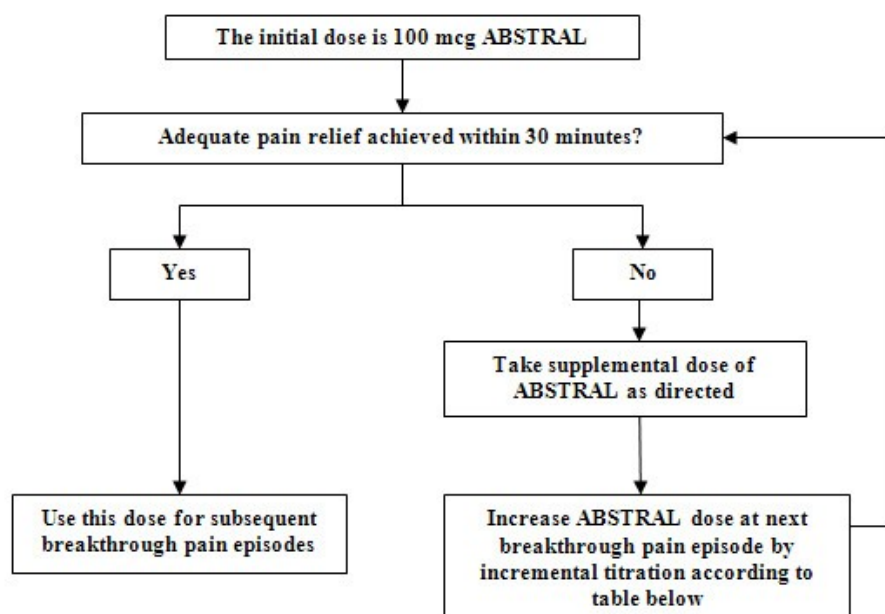
Start all patients with a single 100 mcg tablet.

- If adequate analgesia is obtained within 30 minutes of administration of the 100 mcg tablet, continue to treat subsequent episodes of breakthrough pain with this dose.
- If adequate analgesia is not obtained after ABSTRAL, the patient may use a second ABSTRAL dose (after 30 minutes) as directed by their health care provider. No more than two doses of ABSTRAL may be used to treat an episode of breakthrough pain.
- Patients must wait at least 2 hours before treating another episode of breakthrough pain with ABSTRAL.

**Titration Steps:** If adequate analgesia was not obtained with the first 100 mcg dose, continue dose escalation in a stepwise manner over consecutive breakthrough episodes until adequate analgesia with tolerable side effects is achieved. Increase the dose by 100 mcg multiples up to 400 mcg as needed. If adequate analgesia is not obtained with a 400 mcg dose, the next titration step is 600 mcg. If adequate analgesia is not obtained with a 600 mcg dose, the next titration step is 800 mcg. During titration, patients can be instructed to use multiples of 100 mcg tablets and/or 200 mcg tablets for any single dose. Instruct patients not to use more than 4 tablets at one time. If adequate analgesia is not obtained 30 minutes after the use of ABSTRAL, the patient may repeat the same dose of ABSTRAL. No more than two doses of ABSTRAL may be used to treat an episode of breakthrough pain. Rescue medication as directed by the health care provider can be used if adequate analgesia is not achieved after use of ABSTRAL.

The efficacy and safety of doses higher than 800 mcg have not been evaluated in clinical studies in patients.

### ABSTRAL Titration Process



*ABSTRAL dosing for a subsequent episode should be separated by at least 2 hours*

ABSTRAL dose	Using
200 mcg	2 x 100 mcg tablets, <i>or</i> 1 x 200 mcg tablets
300 mcg	3 x 100 mcg tablets, <i>or</i> 1 x 300 mcg tablets
400 mcg	4 x 100 mcg tablets, <i>or</i> 2 x 200 mcg tablets, <i>or</i> 1 x 400 mcg tablets
600 mcg	3 x 200 mcg tablets, <i>or</i> 1 x 600 mcg tablets
800 mcg	4 x 200 mcg tablets, <i>or</i> 1 x 800 mcg tablets

In order to minimize the risk of ABSTRAL-related adverse reactions and to identify the appropriate dose, it is imperative that patients be supervised closely by health professionals during the titration process.

## 2.2 Maintenance Therapy

Once an appropriate dose for pain management has been established, instruct patients to use only one ABSTRAL tablet of the appropriate strength per dose. Maintain patients on this dose.

If adequate analgesia is not obtained after use of ABSTRAL, the patient may use a second ABSTRAL dose (after 30 minutes) as directed by their health care provider. No more than two doses of ABSTRAL may be used to treat an episode of breakthrough pain.

Patients must wait at least 2 hours before treating another episode of breakthrough pain with ABSTRAL.

## 2.3 Dose Re-adjustment

If the response (analgesia or adverse reactions) to the titrated ABSTRAL dose markedly changes, an adjustment of dose may be necessary to ensure that an appropriate dose is maintained.

If more than four episodes of breakthrough pain are experienced per day, re-evaluate the dose of the long-acting opioid used for persistent underlying cancer pain. If the long-acting opioid or dose of long-acting opioid is changed, re-evaluate and re-titrate the ABSTRAL dose as necessary to ensure the patient is on an appropriate dose.

Limit the use of ABSTRAL to treat four or fewer episodes of breakthrough pain per day.

It is imperative that any dose re-titration is monitored carefully by a healthcare professional.

## 2.4 Administration of ABSTRAL

Place ABSTRAL tablets on the floor of the mouth directly under the tongue immediately after removal from the blister unit. Do not chew, suck, or swallow ABSTRAL tablets. Allow ABSTRAL tablets to completely dissolve in the sublingual cavity. Advise patients not to eat or drink anything until the tablet is completely dissolved.

In patients who have a dry mouth, water may be used to moisten the buccal mucosa **before** taking ABSTRAL.

## 2.5 Discontinuation of Therapy

For patients no longer requiring opioid therapy, consider discontinuing ABSTRAL along with a gradual downward titration of other opioids to minimize possible withdrawal effects.

In patients who continue to take their chronic opioid therapy for persistent pain but no longer require treatment for breakthrough pain, ABSTRAL therapy can usually be discontinued immediately.

## 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

ABSTRAL is formulated as a sublingual tablet and is available in six strengths, distinguishable by the shape of the tablet and by de-bossing on the tablet surface. All tablets are white:

100 microgram tablet is a round tablet marked with the number "1"

200 microgram tablet is an oval-shaped tablet marked with the number "2"

300 microgram tablet is a triangle-shaped tablet marked with the number "3"

400 microgram tablet is a diamond-shaped tablet marked with the number "4"

600 microgram tablet is a "D"-shaped tablet marked with the number "6"

800 microgram tablet is a capsule-shaped tablet marked with the number "8"

[see *How Supplied/Storage and Handling* (16.4)].

## 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

ABSTRAL is contraindicated in the management of pain in opioid non-tolerant patients, because life-threatening hypoventilation could occur at any dose in patients not already taking around-the-clock opioid therapy. Patients considered opioid tolerant are those who are taking at least 60 mg oral morphine/day, or at least 25 mcg transdermal fentanyl/hour, 30 mg oral oxycodone/day, 8 mg oral hydromorphone/day, 25 mg oral oxymorphone/day, or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid for a week or longer.

ABSTRAL is contraindicated in the management of acute or postoperative pain, including headache/migraine, dental pain, or use in the emergency room.

ABSTRAL is contraindicated in patients with known intolerance or hypersensitivity to any of its components or the drug fentanyl. Anaphylaxis and hypersensitivity have been reported in association with the use of other oral transmucosal fentanyl products.

## 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

See **Boxed Warning - WARNINGS: IMPORTANCE OF PROPER PATIENT SELECTION and POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE**

### 5.1 Hypoventilation (Respiratory Depression)

Serious or fatal respiratory depression can occur even at recommended doses in patients using ABSTRAL.

Respiratory depression is more likely to occur in patients with underlying respiratory disorders and elderly or debilitated patients, usually following large initial doses, including ABSTRAL, in opioid non-tolerant patients, or when opioids are given in conjunction with other drugs that depress respiration.

Respiratory depression from opioids is manifested by a reduced urge to breathe and a decreased rate of respiration, often associated with the "sighing" pattern of breathing (deep breaths separated by abnormally long pauses). Carbon dioxide retention from opioid-induced respiratory depression can exacerbate the sedating effects of opioids. This makes overdoses involving drugs with sedative properties and opioids especially dangerous.

### **ABSTRAL and Other Fentanyl Products**

ABSTRAL is NOT equivalent to all other fentanyl products used to treat breakthrough pain on a mcg per mcg basis. There are differences in the pharmacokinetics of ABSTRAL relative to other fentanyl products which could potentially result in clinically important differences in the amount of fentanyl absorbed and could result in a fatal overdose.

When prescribing ABSTRAL to a patient, DO NOT convert from other fentanyl products. Directions for safely converting patients to ABSTRAL from other fentanyl products are not currently available. (Note: This includes oral, transdermal, or parenteral formulations of fentanyl). Therefore, for opioid-tolerant patients starting treatment for breakthrough pain, the initial dose of ABSTRAL is 100 mcg. Individually titrate each patient's dose to provide adequate analgesia while minimizing side effects. [See *Dosage and Administration* (2.1)]

When dispensing ABSTRAL to a patient, DO NOT substitute it for any other fentanyl product prescription.

### **5.2 Patient/Caregiver Instructions**

**Patients and their caregivers must be instructed that ABSTRAL contains a medicine in an amount which can be fatal to a child.** Even though ABSTRAL is provided in child-resistant packaging, patients and their caregivers must be instructed to keep tablets out of the reach of children. [see *How Supplied/Storage and Handling* (16.1, 16.2), and *Patient Counseling Information* (17.1, 17.2)].

**Taking ABSTRAL could be fatal in individuals for whom it is not prescribed and for those who are not opioid-tolerant.**

Physicians and dispensing pharmacists must specifically question patients or caregivers about the presence of children in the home (on a full time or visiting basis) and counsel them regarding the dangers to children from inadvertent exposure.

### **5.3 Additive CNS Depressant Effects**

The concomitant use of ABSTRAL with other CNS depressants, including other opioids, sedatives or hypnotics, general anesthetics, phenothiazines, tranquilizers, skeletal muscle relaxants, sedating antihistamines, and alcoholic beverages may produce increased depressant effects (e.g., hypoventilation, hypotension, and profound sedation). Concomitant use with potent inhibitors of cytochrome P450 3A4 isoform (e.g., erythromycin, ketoconazole, and certain protease inhibitors) may increase fentanyl levels, resulting in increased depressant effects [see *Drug Interactions* (7)].

Patients on concomitant CNS depressants must be monitored for a change in opioid effects and the dose of ABSTRAL adjusted, if warranted.

### **5.4 Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines**

Opioid analgesics impair the mental and/or physical ability required for the performance of potentially dangerous tasks (e.g., driving a car or operating machinery). Warn patients taking ABSTRAL of these dangers and counsel them accordingly.

## 5.5 Chronic Pulmonary Disease

Because potent opioids can cause hypoventilation, titrate ABSTRAL with caution in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or pre-existing medical conditions predisposing them to hypoventilation. In such patients, even normal therapeutic doses of ABSTRAL may further decrease respiratory drive to the point of respiratory failure.

## 5.6 Head Injuries and Increased Intracranial Pressure

Administer ABSTRAL with extreme caution in patients who may be particularly susceptible to the intracranial effects of CO<sub>2</sub> retention such as those with evidence of increased intracranial pressure or impaired consciousness. Opioids may obscure the clinical course of a patient with a head injury; use only if clinically warranted.

## 5.7 Cardiac Disease

Intravenous administration of fentanyl may produce bradycardia. Therefore, use ABSTRAL with caution in patients with bradyarrhythmias.

## 5.8 MAO Inhibitors

ABSTRAL is not recommended for use in patients who have received MAO inhibitors within the past 14 days. Severe and unpredictable potentiation by MAO inhibitors has been reported with opioid analgesics.

## 5.9 Transmucosal immediate Release Fentanyl (TIRF) Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Access Program

Because of the risk for misuse, abuse, addiction, and overdose [see *Drug Abuse and Dependence* (9)], ABSTRAL is available only through a restricted program called the TIRF REMS Access program. Under the TIRF REMS Access program, outpatients, healthcare professionals who prescribe to outpatients, pharmacies, and distributors must enroll in the program. For inpatient administration (e.g., hospitals, hospices, and long-term care facilities that prescribe for inpatient use) of ABSTRAL, patient and prescriber enrollment is not required.

Required components of the TIRF REMS Access program are:

- Healthcare professionals who prescribe ABSTRAL must review the prescriber educational materials for the TIRF REMS Access program, enroll in the program, and comply with the REMS requirements.
- To receive ABSTRAL, outpatients must understand the risks and benefits and sign a Patient-Prescriber Agreement.
- Pharmacies that dispense ABSTRAL must enroll in the program and agree to comply with the REMS requirements.
- Wholesalers and distributors that distribute ABSTRAL must enroll in the program and distribute only to authorized pharmacies.

Further information, including a list of qualified pharmacies/distributors, is available at [www.TIRFREMSAccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSAccess.com) or by calling 1-866-822-1483.

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

### 6.1 Clinical Studies Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse event rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

The safety of ABSTRAL has been evaluated in 311 opioid-tolerant cancer patients with breakthrough pain.

Two hundred and seventy (270) of these patients were treated in multiple-dose studies. The duration of therapy for patients in multiple-dose studies ranged from 1-405 days with an average duration of 131 days and with 44 patients treated for at least 12 months.

The most commonly observed adverse reactions with ABSTRAL include typical opioid adverse reactions, such as nausea, constipation, somnolence and headache. Expect opioid side effects and manage them accordingly.

The clinical trials of ABSTRAL were designed to evaluate safety and efficacy in treating patients with cancer and breakthrough pain; all patients were taking concomitant opioids, such as sustained-release morphine, sustained-release oxycodone or transdermal fentanyl, for their persistent pain.

The adverse reaction data presented in Table 1 reflect the actual percentage of patients experiencing reactions among patients who received ABSTRAL for breakthrough pain along with concomitant opioid use for persistent pain. There has been no attempt to correct for concomitant use of other opioids, duration of ABSTRAL therapy or cancer-related symptoms.

Table 1 lists adverse reactions with an overall frequency of 5% or greater within the total population that occurred during titration by maximum dose received. The ability to assign ABSTRAL a dose-response relationship to these adverse reactions is limited by the titration schemes used in these studies.

**Table 1: Adverse Reactions Which Occurred During Titration at a Frequency of  $\geq$  5%**

System Organ Class Preferred term N (%)	100 mcg (n=22)	200 mcg (n=23)	300 mcg (n=55)	400 mcg (n=38)	600 mcg (n=52)	800 mcg (n=80)	Total (n=270)
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>							
Nausea	1 (4.5)	4 (17.4)	5 (9.1)	1 (2.6)	2 (3.8)	2 (2.5)	15 (5.6)
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>							
Somnolence	0	2 (8.7)	4 (7.3)	2 (5.3)	2 (3.8)	2 (2.5)	12 (4.4)
Dizziness	0	0	3 (5.5)	2 (5.3)	0	1 (1.3)	6 (2.2)
Headache	0	0	0	1 (2.6)	3 (5.8)	1 (1.3)	5 (1.9)

Table 2 lists, by successful dose, adverse reactions with an overall frequency of  $\geq$  5% within the total population that occurred after a successful dose had been determined.

**Table 2: Adverse Reactions Which Occurred During Maintenance Therapy at a Frequency of  $\geq$  5%**

System Organ Class Preferred term N (%)	100 mcg (n=7)	200 mcg (n=12)	300 mcg (n=22)	400 mcg (n=20)	600 mcg (n=35)	800 mcg (n=72)	Total (n=168)
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>							
Nausea	1 (14.3)	0	2 (9.1)	0	1 (2.9)	6 (8.3)	10 (6.0)
Stomatitis	0	1 (8.3)	1 (4.5)	0	0	1 (1.4)	3 (1.8)
Constipation	0	0	1 (4.5)	2 (10.0)	1 (2.9)	4 (5.6)	8 (4.8)
Dry mouth	0	0	0	1 (5.0)	2 (5.7)	0	3 (1.8)
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>							
Headache	0	0	0	2 (10.0)	1 (2.9)	2 (2.8)	5 (3.0)
Dysgeusia	1 (14.3)	0	0	0	0	1 (1.4)	2 (1.2)
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>							
Fatigue	0	0	0	1 (5.0)	2 (5.7)	0	3 (1.8)
<b>Injury, poisoning and procedural complications</b>							
Accidental overdose	1 (14.3)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0.6)
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>							

Dyspnoea	0	1 (8.3)	0	0	0	0	1 (0.6)
<b>Skin and subcutaneous disorders</b>							
Hyperhidrosis	1 (14.3)	0	0	0	0	1 (1.4)	2 (1.2)

The frequencies listed below represent adverse reactions that occurred in  $\geq 1\%$  of patients from two clinical trials who experienced that reaction while receiving ABSTRAL. Reactions are classified by system organ class.

**Adverse Reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ )**

**Cardiac disorders:** bradycardia, tachycardia.

**Eye disorders:** vision blurred.

**Gastrointestinal disorders:** abdominal pain, abdominal pain upper, aphthous stomatitis, constipation, dry mouth, dyspepsia, gingival ulceration, impaired gastric emptying, lip ulceration, mouth ulceration, nausea, stomach discomfort, stomatitis, tongue disorder, vomiting.

**General disorders and administration site conditions:** asthenia, drug withdrawal syndrome, fatigue, malaise.

**Immune system disorders:** drug hypersensitivity.

**Injury, poisoning and procedural complications:** accidental overdose.

**Metabolism and nutrition disorders:** anorexia, decreased appetite.

**Nervous system disorders:** amnesia, disturbance in attention, dizziness, dysgeusia, headache, hypoesthesia, lethargy, parosmia, somnolence, tremor.

**Psychiatric disorders:** affect lability, anxiety, confusional state, depression, disorientation, dysphoria, euphoric mood, insomnia, mental status changes, paranoia, sleep disorder.

**Reproductive system and breast disorders:** erectile dysfunction.

**Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorder:** dyspnea, oropharyngeal pain, throat tightness.

**Skin and subcutaneous disorders:** hyperhidrosis, night sweats, pruritus, rash, skin lesion.

**Vascular disorders:** hypotension.

**7 DRUG INTERACTIONS**

Fentanyl is metabolized mainly via the human cytochrome P450 3A4 isoenzyme system (CYP3A4); therefore potential interactions may occur when ABSTRAL is given concurrently with agents that affect CYP3A4 activity.

The concomitant use of ABSTRAL with CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, clarithromycin, itraconazole, ketoconazole, nefazodone, saquinavir, telithromycin, aprepitant, diltiazem, erythromycin, fluconazole, grapefruit juice, verapamil, or cimetidine) may result in a potentially dangerous increase in fentanyl plasma concentrations, which could increase or prolong adverse drug effects and may cause potentially fatal respiratory depression. Patients receiving ABSTRAL who begin therapy with, or increase the dose of, CYP3A4 inhibitors need to be carefully monitored for signs of opioid toxicity over an extended period of time. Increase dosage conservatively.

The concomitant use of ABSTRAL with CYP3A4 inducers (e.g., barbiturates, carbamazepine, efavirenz, glucocorticoids, modafinil, nevirapine, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, pioglitazone, rifabutin,

rifampin, St. John's wort, or troglitazone) may result in a decrease in fentanyl plasma concentrations, which could decrease the efficacy of ABSTRAL.

Patients receiving ABSTRAL who stop therapy with, or decrease the dose of, CYP3A4 inducers need to be monitored for signs of increased ABSTRAL activity and the dose of ABSTRAL must be adjusted accordingly.

## **8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

### **8.1 Pregnancy - Category C**

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women.

Use ABSTRAL during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. No epidemiological studies of congenital anomalies in infants born to women treated with fentanyl during pregnancy have been reported.

Chronic maternal treatment with fentanyl during pregnancy has been associated with transient respiratory depression, behavioral changes, or seizures in newborn infants characteristic of neonatal abstinence syndrome.

In women treated acutely with intravenous or epidural fentanyl during labor, symptoms of neonatal respiratory or neurological depression were no more frequent than would be expected in infants of untreated mothers.

Transient neonatal muscular rigidity has been observed in infants whose mothers were treated with intravenous fentanyl.

Fentanyl is embryocidal in rats as evidenced by increased resorptions in pregnant rats at doses of 30 mcg/kg intravenously or 160 mcg/kg subcutaneously. Conversion to human equivalent doses indicates this is within the range of the human recommended dosing for ABSTRAL.

Fentanyl citrate was not teratogenic when administered to pregnant animals. Published studies demonstrated that administration of fentanyl (10, 100, or 500 mcg/kg/day) to pregnant rats from day 7 to 21, of their 21 day gestation, via implanted microosmotic minipumps, was not teratogenic (the high dose was approximately 6-times the human dose of 800 mcg per pain episode on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis). Intravenous administration of fentanyl (10 mcg/kg or 30 mcg/kg) to pregnant female rats from gestation day 6 to 18, was embryo- or feto-toxic, and caused a slightly increased mean delivery time in the 30 mcg/kg/day group, but was not teratogenic.

### **8.2 Labor and Delivery**

Fentanyl readily crosses the placenta. Therefore do not use ABSTRAL during labor and delivery (including caesarean section) since it may cause respiratory depression in the fetus or in the newborn infant.

### **8.3 Nursing Mothers**

Fentanyl is excreted in human milk; therefore, do not use ABSTRAL in women who are nursing because of the possibility of sedation and/or respiratory depression in their infants. Symptoms of opioid withdrawal may occur in infants at the cessation of nursing by women using ABSTRAL.

### **8.4 Pediatric Use**

The safety and efficacy of ABSTRAL have not been established in patients below 18 years of age.

### **8.5 Geriatric Use**

Of the 270 opioid tolerant patients with breakthrough cancer pain in the Phase 3 clinical studies of Abstral, 58 (21%) were 65 years of age and older. There was no difference in the median titrated dose in patients aged 65 years and older compared to those <65 years. No clinically meaningful difference was noted in the safety profile of the group 65 years of age and older as compared to younger patients in ABSTRAL clinical trials.

Elderly patients have been shown to be more sensitive to the effects of fentanyl when administered intravenously, compared with the younger adult population. Therefore, exercise caution when individually titrating ABSTRAL in elderly patients to provide adequate efficacy while minimizing risk.

## 8.6 Patients with Renal and Hepatic Impairment

Insufficient information exists to make recommendations regarding the use of ABSTRAL in patients with impaired renal or hepatic function. Fentanyl is metabolized primarily via human cytochrome P450 3A4 isoenzyme system and the inactive metabolite is mostly eliminated in urine. If the drug is used in these patients, use the drug with caution because of the reduced hepatic metabolism and renal excretion capacity in such patients.

## 8.7 Gender

Both male and female opioid-tolerant cancer patients were studied for the treatment of breakthrough cancer pain. No clinically relevant gender differences were noted either in efficacy or in observed adverse reactions.

## 9 DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

### 9.1 Controlled Substance

ABSTRAL contains fentanyl, a Schedule II substance. Schedule II opioid substances such as fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, and oxymorphone have a high potential for abuse and addiction. ABSTRAL is also subject to misuse and criminal diversion.

### 9.2 Abuse and Addiction

Manage the handling of ABSTRAL to minimize the risk of misuse, including the restriction of access and accounting procedures as appropriate to the clinical setting and as required by law [see *How Supplied/Storage and Handling* (16.2, 16.3)].

Concerns about abuse, addiction, and diversion must not prevent the proper management of pain. However, all patients treated with opioids require careful monitoring for signs of abuse and addiction, because use of opioid analgesic products carries the risk of addiction even under appropriate medical use.

Addiction is a primary, chronic, neurobiologic disease, with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. It is characterized by behaviors that include one or more of the following: impaired control over drug use, compulsive use, continued use despite harm, and craving. Drug addiction is a treatable disease, utilizing a multidisciplinary approach, but relapse is common. "Drug-seeking" behavior is very common in addicts and drug abusers.

Abuse and addiction are separate and distinct from physical dependence and tolerance. Be aware that addiction may not be accompanied by concurrent tolerance and symptoms of physical dependence in all addicts. In addition, abuse of opioids can occur in the absence of addiction and is characterized by misuse for non-medical purposes, often in combination with other psychoactive substances. Since ABSTRAL may be diverted for non-medical use, careful record keeping of prescribing information, including quantity, frequency, and renewal requests is strongly advised.

Proper patient assessment, safe prescribing practices, periodic re-evaluation of therapy, and proper dispensing and storage are appropriate measures that help to limit abuse of opioid drugs.

Contact your State Professional Licensing Board, or State Controlled Substances Authority for information on how to prevent and detect abuse or diversion of this product.

### 9.3 Dependence

Physical dependence is not ordinarily a concern in the treatment of patients with chronic cancer pain, and fear of tolerance and physical dependence must not deter using opiate doses that adequately relieve the pain. Guide the administration of Abstral by the response of the patient.

Opioid analgesics may cause physical dependence that can result in withdrawal symptoms in patients who abruptly discontinue the drug. Withdrawal also may be precipitated through the administration of drugs with opioid antagonist activity (e.g., naloxone, nalmefene) or mixed agonist/antagonist analgesics (pentazocine,

butorphanol, buprenorphine, nalbuphine).

Physical dependence usually does not occur to a clinically significant degree until after several weeks of continued opioid usage. Tolerance, in which increasingly larger doses are required in order to produce the same degree of analgesia, is initially manifested by a shortened duration of analgesic effect, and subsequently, by decreases in the intensity of analgesia.

## 10 OVERDOSAGE

### 10.1 Clinical Presentation

The manifestations of ABSTRAL overdose are expected to be similar in nature to intravenous fentanyl and other opioids, and are an extension of its pharmacological actions with the most serious significant effect being hypoventilation [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.2)].

### 10.2 Immediate Management

Immediate management of opioid overdose includes removal of the ABSTRAL tablet, if still in the mouth, ensuring a patent airway, physical and verbal stimulation of the patient, and assessment of level of consciousness, ventilatory and circulatory status.

### 10.3 Treatment of Overdosage (Accidental Ingestion) in the Opioid NON-Tolerant Person

Provide ventilatory support, obtain intravenous access, and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonists as clinically indicated. The duration of respiratory depression following overdose may be longer than the effects of the opioid antagonist's action (e.g., the half-life of naloxone ranges from 30 to 81 minutes) and repeated administration may be necessary. Consult the package insert of the individual opioid antagonist for details.

### 10.4 Treatment of Overdosage in Opioid-Tolerant Patients

Provide ventilatory support and obtain intravenous access as clinically indicated. Judicious use of naloxone or another opioid antagonist may be warranted in some instances, but at the risk of precipitating an acute withdrawal syndrome.

### 10.5 General Considerations for Overdose

Management of severe ABSTRAL overdose includes: securing a patent airway, assisting or controlling ventilation and establishing intravenous access. In the presence of hypoventilation or apnea, assist or control ventilation, and administer oxygen as indicated.

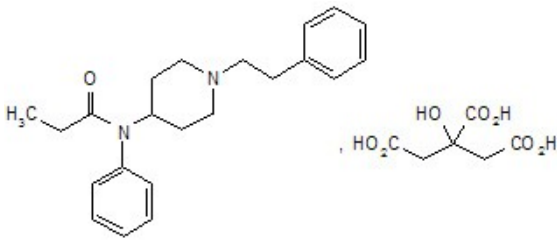
Carefully observe and appropriately manage patients with overdose until their clinical condition is well controlled.

Although muscle rigidity interfering with respiration has not been seen following the use of ABSTRAL, this is possible with fentanyl and other opioids. If it occurs, manage it by using assisted or controlled ventilation, by an opioid antagonist, and as a final alternative, by a neuromuscular blocking agent.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

ABSTRAL (fentanyl) sublingual tablet is a solid formulation of fentanyl citrate, a potent opioid analgesic intended for oral sublingual administration. ABSTRAL is formulated as a white tablet available in six strengths, distinguishable by the shape of the tablet and by de-bossing on the tablet surface.

**Active Ingredient:** Fentanyl citrate, USP is N-(1-Phenethyl-4-piperidyl) propionanilide citrate (1:1). Fentanyl is a highly lipophilic compound (octanol-water partition coefficient at pH 7.4 is 816:1) that is freely soluble in organic solvents and sparingly soluble in water (1:40). The molecular weight of the free base is 336.5 (the citrate salt is 528.6). The pKa of the tertiary nitrogens are 7.3 and 8.4. The compound has the following structural formula:



All tablet strengths are expressed as the amount of fentanyl free base, e.g., the 100 mcg strength tablet contains 100 mcg of fentanyl free base.

**Inactive Ingredients:** Croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, mannitol, and silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Fentanyl is a pure opioid agonist whose principal therapeutic action is analgesia. Other members of the class known as opioid agonists include substances such as morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, codeine, and hydrocodone.

### 12.2 Pharmacodynamics

Pharmacological effects of opioid agonists include anxiolysis, euphoria, feelings of relaxation, respiratory depression, constipation, miosis, cough suppression, and analgesia. Like all pure opioid agonist analgesics, with increasing doses there is increasing analgesia, unlike with mixed agonist/antagonists or non-opioid analgesics, where there is a limit to the analgesic effect with increasing doses. With pure opioid agonist analgesics, there is no defined maximum dose; the ceiling to analgesic effectiveness is imposed only by side effects, the more serious of which may include somnolence and respiratory depression.

#### Analgesia

In general, the effective concentration and the concentration at which toxicity occurs increase with increasing tolerance with any and all opioids. The rate of development of tolerance varies widely among individuals. As a result, individually titrate the dose of ABSTRAL to achieve the desired effect [see *Dosage and Administration* (2)].

#### Central Nervous System

The precise mechanism of the analgesic action is unknown although fentanyl is known to be a  $\mu$ -opioid receptor agonist. Specific CNS opioid receptors for endogenous compounds with opioid-like activity have been identified throughout the brain and spinal cord and play a role in the analgesic effects of this drug.

Fentanyl produces respiratory depression by direct action on brain stem respiratory centers. The respiratory depression involves both a reduction in the responsiveness of the brain stem to increases in carbon dioxide and to electrical stimulation.

Fentanyl causes miosis even in total darkness. Pinpoint pupils are a sign of opioid overdose but are not pathognomonic (e.g., pontine lesions of hemorrhagic or ischemic origin may produce similar findings).

#### Gastrointestinal System

Fentanyl causes a reduction in motility associated with an increase in smooth muscle tone in the antrum of the stomach and in the duodenum. Digestion of food is delayed in the small intestine and propulsive contractions are decreased. Propulsive peristaltic waves in the colon are decreased, while tone may be increased to the point of spasm resulting in constipation. Other opioid induced-effects may include a reduction in gastric, biliary and pancreatic secretions, spasm of the sphincter of Oddi, and transient elevations in serum amylase.

### Cardiovascular System

Fentanyl may produce release of histamine with or without associated peripheral vasodilation. Manifestations of histamine release and/or peripheral vasodilation may include pruritus, flushing, red eyes, sweating, and/or orthostatic hypotension.

### Endocrine System

Opioid agonists have been shown to have a variety of effects on the secretion of hormones. Opioids inhibit the secretion of ACTH, cortisol, and luteinizing hormone (LH) in humans. They also stimulate prolactin secretion, growth hormone (GH) secretion, and pancreatic secretion of insulin and glucagon in humans and other species (e.g., rats and dogs). Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) has been shown to be both inhibited and stimulated by opioids.

### Respiratory System

All opioid mu-receptor agonists, including fentanyl, produce dose-dependent respiratory depression. The risk of respiratory depression is less in patients receiving chronic opioid therapy who develop tolerance to these effects. Peak respiratory depressive effects may be seen as early as 15 to 30 minutes from the start of oral transmucosal fentanyl citrate administration and may persist for several hours.

Serious or fatal respiratory depression can occur even at recommended doses. Fentanyl depresses the cough reflex as a result of its CNS activity. Although not observed with oral transmucosal fentanyl products in clinical trials, fentanyl given rapidly by intravenous injection in large doses may cause rigidity in the muscles of respiration resulting in respiratory difficulties. Therefore, be aware of this potential complication [see *Boxed Warning - Warnings: Importance Of Proper Patient Selection and Potential for Abuse, Contraindications (4), Warnings And Precautions (5.1), Adverse Reactions (6), and Overdosage (10)*].

## **12.3 Pharmacokinetics**

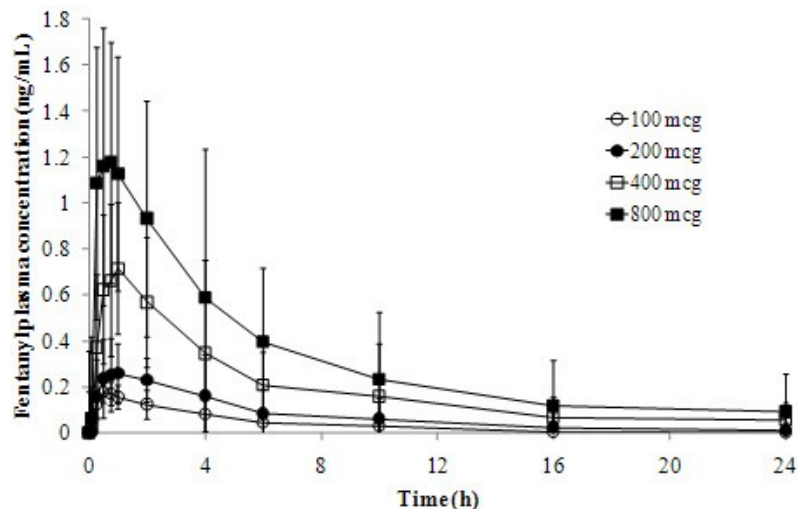
### Absorption

Fentanyl is a highly lipophilic drug. Orally administered fentanyl undergoes pronounced hepatic and intestinal first pass effects. Absorption of fentanyl from ABSTRAL sublingual tablets is mainly through the oral mucosa.

The bioavailability of ABSTRAL sublingual tablets has been calculated to be 54%.

Dose proportionality across the 100 mcg to 800 mcg ABSTRAL dose range has been demonstrated (Table 3). Mean plasma fentanyl levels following single doses of ABSTRAL are shown in Figure 1. The median time to maximum plasma concentration ( $T_{max}$ ) across these four doses of ABSTRAL varied from 30 to 60 minutes (range of 15 - 240 minutes).

**Figure 1: Mean (+/- SD) Plasma Fentanyl Concentration versus Time after Administration of Single Doses of 100 mcg, 200 mcg, 400 mcg and 800 mcg ABSTRAL to Healthy Subjects**



Pharmacokinetic parameters are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3. Mean (CV%) Fentanyl Pharmacokinetic Parameters after Single-Dose Administration of 100, 200, 400 and 800 mcg Doses of ABSTRAL to Healthy Subjects (n=12 per Dose Level)**

Parameter	Unit	Abstral dose			
		100 mcg	200 mcg	400 mcg	800 mcg
C <sub>max</sub>	(ng/mL)	0.187 (33)	0.302 (31)	0.765 (38)	1.42 (33)
T <sub>max</sub> <sup>a</sup>	(min)	30 [19-120]	52 [16-240]	60 [30-120]	30 [15-60]
AUC <sub>0-inf</sub>	(ng.h/mL)	0.974 (34)	1.92 (27)	5.49 (35)	8.95 (33)
T <sub>1/2</sub>	(h)	5.02 (51)	6.67 (30)	13.5 (37)	10.1 (34)

a: median (range)

In another study, dose proportionality between 800 mcg and 1600 mcg in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC has also been demonstrated.

Pharmacokinetic studies have shown that multiple tablets are bioequivalent to single tablets of the equivalent dose.

### Distribution

Fentanyl is highly lipophilic. Animal data showed that following absorption, fentanyl is rapidly distributed to the brain, heart, lungs, kidneys and spleen followed by a slower redistribution to muscles and fat. The plasma protein binding of fentanyl is 80-85%. The main binding protein is alpha-1-acid glycoprotein, but both albumin and lipoproteins contribute to some extent. The free fraction of fentanyl increases with acidosis. The mean volume of distribution at steady state (V<sub>ss</sub>) was 4 L/kg.

### Metabolism

Fentanyl is metabolized in the liver and in the intestinal mucosa to norfentanyl by cytochrome P450 3A4 isoform. Norfentanyl was not found to be pharmacologically active in animal studies [see *Drug Interactions* (7)].

### Elimination

Fentanyl is more than 90% eliminated by biotransformation to N-dealkylated and hydroxylated inactive metabolites. Less than 7% of the dose is excreted unchanged in the urine, and only about 1% is excreted

unchanged in the feces. The metabolites are mainly excreted in the urine, while fecal excretion is less important. The total plasma clearance of fentanyl was 0.5 L/hr/kg (range 0.3 - 0.7 L/ hr/kg).

### 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

#### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Long-term studies in animals have not been performed to evaluate the carcinogenic potential of fentanyl.

Fentanyl citrate was not mutagenic in the *in vitro* Ames reverse mutation assay in *S. typhimurium* or *E. coli*, or the mouse lymphoma mutagenesis assay, and was not clastogenic in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus assay.

Fentanyl has been shown to impair fertility in rats at doses of 30 mcg/kg intravenously and 160 mcg/kg subcutaneously. Conversion to the human equivalent doses indicates that this is within the range of the human recommended dosing for ABSTRAL.

### 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

The efficacy of ABSTRAL was investigated in a clinical trial in opioid tolerant adult patients experiencing breakthrough cancer pain. Breakthrough cancer pain was defined as a transient flare of moderate-to-severe pain occurring in patients with cancer experiencing persistent cancer pain otherwise controlled with maintenance doses of opioid medications including at least 60 mg morphine/day, 50 mcg transdermal fentanyl/hour, or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid for 1 week or longer. All patients were on stable doses of either long-acting oral opioids or transdermal fentanyl for their persistent cancer pain.

A double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study was performed in patients with cancer to evaluate the effectiveness of ABSTRAL for the treatment of breakthrough cancer pain. Open-label titration identified a dose of ABSTRAL in which a patient obtained adequate analgesia with tolerable side effects, within the range of 100 mcg to 800 mcg. In the double-blind efficacy study, patients who identified a successful dose were randomized to a sequence of 10 treatments; seven with ABSTRAL and three with placebo.

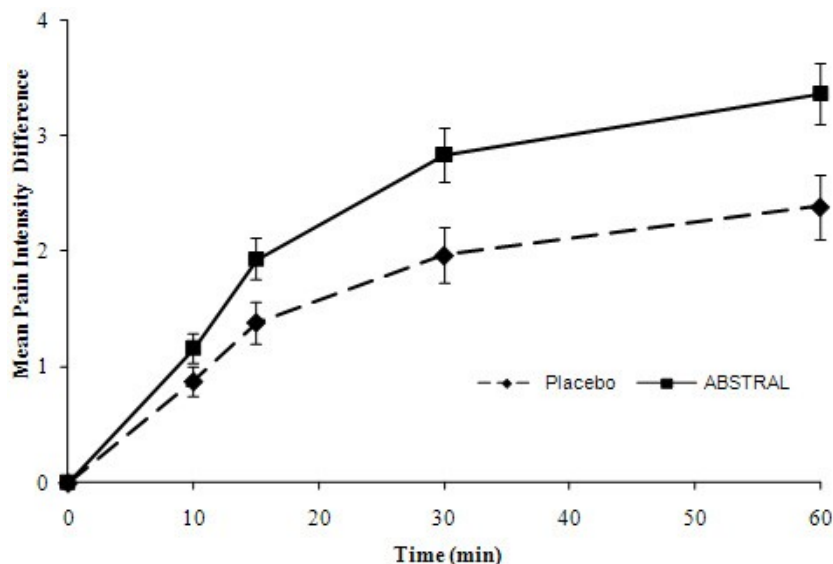
Of the 131 patients who entered the titration phase of the study, 78 (60%) achieved a successful dose during the titration phase. Sixty- six patients entered the double-blind phase and 60 completed the study. The dose of ABSTRAL was determined by titration starting at 100 mcg. The final titrated dose of ABSTRAL for breakthrough cancer pain was not predicted from the daily maintenance dose of opioid used to manage the persistent cancer pain. In a second open-label safety study using an identical titration regimen, 96 of 139 patients (69%) who entered the study titrated to a dose in which the patient obtained adequate analgesia with tolerable side effects during the titration phase. Table 4 presents the final titrated dose for both the double-blind efficacy and open-label safety studies.

**Table 4: Final dose of ABSTRAL following initial titration in all clinical efficacy and safety studies**

ABSTRAL Dose	N=174 n (%)
100 mcg	11 (6)
200 mcg	15 (9)
300 mcg	35 (20)
400 mcg	25 (14)
600 mcg	40 (23)
800 mcg	48 (28)

The primary outcome measure, the mean sum of pain intensity difference at 30 minutes (SPID30) for ABSTRAL-treated episodes was statistically significantly higher than for placebo-treated episodes.

**Figure 2: Mean Pain Intensity Difference ( $\pm$ SE) for ABSTRAL Compared to Placebo**



## 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

### 16.1 Storage and Handling

ABSTRAL is supplied in individually sealed child-resistant blister packages contained in a cardboard outer carton, in pack sizes of 12 (100 mcg, 200 mcg, 300 mcg and 400 mcg strengths) or 32 (all strengths) tablets. The packaging is color-coded for each ABSTRAL tablet strength.

The amount of fentanyl contained in ABSTRAL can be fatal to a child, individual for whom it is not prescribed or non-opioid tolerant adult. Patients and their caregivers must be instructed to keep ABSTRAL out of the reach of children [see *Boxed Warning - Warnings: Potential For Abuse and Importance Of Proper Patient Selection* and *Warnings And Precautions* (5), and *Patient Counseling Information* (17.1)].

Store at 20-25°C (68-77°F); excursions permitted between 15-30°C (59-86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature]. Protect from moisture.

### 16.2 Disposal of ABSTRAL

Patients and their household members must be advised to dispose of any tablets remaining from a prescription as soon as they are no longer needed. Instructions are included in *Patient Counseling Information* (17.2) and in the *Medication Guide*.

To dispose of any unused ABSTRAL tablets, remove them from the blister cards and flush down the toilet. Do not dispose of the ABSTRAL blister cards or cartons down the toilet.

If additional assistance is required, call Galena Biopharma, Inc. at 1-888-227-8725.

### 16.3 How Supplied

ABSTRAL is supplied in six dosage strengths. Tablets are supplied in child-resistant, protective blister cards with peelable foil. Each blister card contains 4 tablets, in pack sizes of 12 (100 mcg, 200 mcg, 300 mcg and 400 mcg strengths) or 32 (all strengths) tablets. Each tablet is white in color, with the strength distinguishable by the shape of the dosage unit and by de-bossing on the tablet surface:

Dosage Strength (fentanyl base)	Tablet Shape	Tablet Markings	Carton/Blister Package Color	Pack size	NDC Number
100 mcg	Round	"1"	Light blue	12	57881-331-12
				32	57881-331-32
200 mcg	Oval	"2"	Dark orange	12	57881-332-12
				32	57881-332-32
300 mcg	Triangle	"3"	Brown	12	57881-333-12
				32	57881-333-32
400 mcg	Diamond	"4"	Violet	12	57881-334-12
				32	57881-334-32
600 mcg	"D"	"6"	Turquoise	32	57881-336-32
800 mcg	Capsule	"8"	Indigo	32	57881-338-32

**Note: Colors and shapes are a secondary aid in product identification. Please be sure to confirm the printed dosage before dispensing.**

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

See FDA-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide)

### 17.1 Patient/Caregiver Instructions

- Before initiating treatment with Abstral, explain the statements below to patients and/or caregivers. Instruct patients to read the Medication Guide each time Abstral is dispensed because new information may be available.
- TIRF REMS Access Program
  - Outpatients must be enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program before they can receive Abstral.
  - Allow patients the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any concerns regarding Abstral or the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - As a component of the TIRF REMS Access program, prescribers must review the contents of the Abstral Medication Guide with every patient before initiating treatment with Abstral.
  - Advise the patient that Abstral is available only from pharmacies that are enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program, and provide them with the telephone number and website for information on how to obtain the drug.
  - Advise the outpatient that only enrolled health care providers may prescribe Abstral.
  - Patient must sign the Patient-Prescriber Agreement to acknowledge that they understand the risks of Abstral.
  - Advise patients that they may be requested to participate in a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the TIRF REMS Access program.
- Instruct patients and their caregivers that ABSTRAL contains medicine in an amount that could be fatal in children, in individuals for whom ABSTRAL is not prescribed, and in those who are not opioid tolerant. Patients and their caregivers must be instructed to keep ABSTRAL, both used and unused dosage units, out of the reach of children. Patients and their caregivers must be instructed to dispose of any unneeded tablets remaining from a prescription as soon as possible [see How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16.2), and Warnings and Precautions (5.2).]
- Instruct patients and their caregivers to read the Medication Guide each time ABSTRAL is dispensed because new information may be available.
- Instruct patients not to take Abstral for acute pain, postoperative pain, pain from injuries, headache, migraine, or any other short-term pain, even if they have taken other opioid analgesics for these

conditions.

- Instruct patients on the meaning of opioid tolerance and Abstral is only to be used as a supplemental pain medication for patients with pain requiring regular opioids, who have developed tolerance to the opioid medication and who need additional opioid treatment of breakthrough pain episodes.
- Instruct that if they are not taking an opioid medication on a regular around-the-clock basis, they must not take Abstral.
- You must not take more than 2 doses of ABSTRAL for each episode of breakthrough cancer pain.
- You must wait two hours before treating a new episode of breakthrough pain with ABSTRAL.
- Instruct patients NOT to share Abstral and that sharing Abstral with anyone else could result in the other individual's death due to overdose.
- Advise patients that Abstral contains fentanyl, which is a pain medication similar to hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, and oxymorphone.
- Advise patients that the active ingredient in Abstral, fentanyl, is a drug that some people abuse. Abstral is to be taken only by the patient for whom it was prescribed, and protected from theft or misuse in the work or home environments.
- Instruct patients to talk to their doctor if breakthrough pain is not alleviated or worsens after taking Abstral.
- Instruct patients to use Abstral exactly as prescribed by their doctor and not to take Abstral more often than prescribed.
- Caution patients that Abstral can affect a person's ability to perform activities that require a high level of attention (such as driving or using heavy machinery). Warn patients taking Abstral of these dangers and counsel accordingly.
- Warn patients not to combine Abstral with alcohol, sleep aids, or tranquilizers except by order of the prescribing physician, because dangerous additive effects may occur resulting in serious injury or death.
- Inform female patients that if they become pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment with Abstral to ask their doctor about the effects that Abstral (or any medicine) may have on them and their unborn child.

## **17.2 Disposal of Unopened ABSTRAL Blister Packages When No Longer Needed**

- Advise patients and their household members to dispose of any unopened packs remaining from a prescription as soon as they are no longer needed.
- Instruct patients that, to dispose of any unused ABSTRAL tablets, remove them from the blister cards and flush them down the toilet. Do not dispose of the ABSTRAL blister cards or cartons down the toilet.
- Detailed instructions for the proper storage, administration, disposal, and important instructions for managing an overdose of ABSTRAL are provided in the ABSTRAL Medication Guide. Ensure patients read this information in its entirety and give them an opportunity to have their questions answered.
- In the event that a caregiver requires additional assistance in disposing of excess units that remain in the home after the drug is no longer needed, instruct them to call the toll-free number for Galena Biopharma, Inc. 1-888-227-8725 or seek assistance from their local DEA office.

## Medication Guide

ABSTRAL® (AB-stral) CII  
(fentanyl)

Sublingual tablets

100 mcg, 200 mcg, 300 mcg, 400 mcg, 600 mcg, 800 mcg

### IMPORTANT:

**Do not use ABSTRAL unless you are regularly using another opioid pain medicine around-the-clock for your cancer pain and your body is used to these medicines (this means that you are opioid tolerant). Keep ABSTRAL in a safe place away from children.**

**Get emergency medical help right away if:**

- a child takes ABSTRAL. ABSTRAL can cause an overdose and death in any child who takes it.
- an adult who has not been prescribed ABSTRAL takes it
- an adult who is not already taking opioids around-the-clock, takes ABSTRAL

**These are medical emergencies that can cause death. If possible, try to remove ABSTRAL from the mouth.**

**Read this Medication Guide completely** before you start taking ABSTRAL, and each time you get a new prescription. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment. Be sure to share this important information with members of your household and other caregivers.

### What is the most important information I should know about ABSTRAL?

**ABSTRAL can cause life-threatening breathing problems which can lead to death.**

- 1. Do not take ABSTRAL if you are not opioid tolerant.**
- If you stop taking your around-the-clock opioid pain medicine for your cancer pain, **you must stop** taking ABSTRAL. You may no longer be opioid tolerant. Talk to your healthcare provider about how to treat your pain.
- 3. Take ABSTRAL exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider.**
  - **You must not take more than 2 doses of ABSTRAL for each episode of breakthrough cancer pain.**
  - **You must wait two hours before treating a new episode of breakthrough pain with ABSTRAL. See the Medication Guide section "How should I take ABSTRAL?" and the Patient Instructions for Use at the end of this Medication Guide for detailed information about how to take ABSTRAL the right way.**
- 4. Do not switch from ABSTRAL to other medicines that contain fentanyl without talking with your healthcare provider.** The amount of fentanyl in a dose of ABSTRAL is not the same as the amount of fentanyl in other medicines that contain fentanyl. Your healthcare provider will prescribe a starting dose of ABSTRAL that may be different than other fentanyl containing medicines you may have been taking.
- 5. Do not take ABSTRAL for short-term pain that you would expect to go away in a few days, such as:**
  - pain after surgery
  - headache or migraine
  - dental pain
- 6. Never give ABSTRAL to anyone else, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them or even cause death.**

ABSTRAL is a federally controlled substance (CII) because it is a strong opioid (narcotic) pain medicine that can be misused by people who abuse prescription medicines or street drugs.

- **Prevent theft, misuse or abuse. Keep ABSTRAL in a safe place** to protect it from being stolen.

ABSTRAL can be a target for people who abuse opioid (narcotic) medicines or street drugs.

- **Selling or giving away this medicine is against the law.**
7. ABSTRAL is available only through a program called the TIRF (**T**ransmucosal **I**mmEDIATE-**R**elease **F**entanyl) REMS (**R**isk **E**valuation and **M**itigation **S**trategy) Access program. To receive ABSTRAL, you must:
- talk to your healthcare provider
  - understand the benefits and risks of ABSTRAL
  - agree to all of the instructions
  - sign the Patient-Prescriber Agreement form

### **What is ABSTRAL?**

- ABSTRAL is a prescription medicine that contains the medicine fentanyl.
- ABSTRAL is used to manage breakthrough pain in adults with cancer (18 years of age and older) who are already routinely taking other opioid pain medicines around-the-clock for cancer pain.
- ABSTRAL is started only after you have been taking other opioid pain medicines and your body has become used to them (you are opioid tolerant). Do not use ABSTRAL if you are not opioid tolerant.
- ABSTRAL is a small tablet that is placed on the floor of the mouth under your tongue (sublingual) and allowed to dissolve.
- You must stay under your healthcare provider's care while taking ABSTRAL.
- ABSTRAL is only:
  - available through the TIRF REMS Access program
  - given to people who are opioid tolerant

It is not known if ABSTRAL is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

### **Who should not take ABSTRAL?**

#### **Do not take ABSTRAL:**

- **if you are not opioid tolerant. Opioid tolerant means that you are already taking other opioid pain medicines around-the-clock for your cancer pain, and your body is used to these medicines.**
- for short-term pain that you would expect to go away in a few days, such as:
  - pain after surgery
  - headache or migraine
  - dental pain
- if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in ABSTRAL. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of other ingredients in ABSTRAL.

### **What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ABSTRAL?**

Before taking ABSTRAL, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have trouble breathing or lung problems such as asthma, wheezing, or shortness of breath
- have or had a head injury or brain problem
- have liver or kidney problems
- have seizures
- have a slow heart rate or other heart problems
- have low blood pressure
- have mental health problems including major depression, schizophrenia or hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there)

- have a past or present drinking problem (alcoholism), or a family history of drinking problems
- have a past or present drug abuse problem or addiction problem, or a family history of a drug abuse problem or addiction problem
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. ABSTRAL may cause serious harm to your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. ABSTRAL can pass into your breast milk. It can cause serious harm to your baby. You should not use ABSTRAL while breastfeeding.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines may cause serious or life-threatening side effects when taken with ABSTRAL. Sometimes, the doses of certain medicines and ABSTRAL may need to be changed if used together.

- **Do not take any medicine while using ABSTRAL until you have talked to your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will tell you if it is safe to take other medicines while you are using ABSTRAL.
- Be very careful about taking other medicines that may make you sleepy, such as other pain medicines, anti-depressants, sleeping pills, anti-anxiety medicines, antihistamines, or tranquilizers.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

### **How should I take ABSTRAL?**

#### **Before you can begin to take ABSTRAL:**

- Your healthcare provider will explain the TIRF REMS Access program to you.
- You will sign the TIRF REMS Access program Patient-Prescriber Agreement form.
- ABSTRAL is only available at pharmacies that are part of the TIRF REMS Access program. Your healthcare provider will let you know the pharmacy closest to your home where you can have your ABSTRAL prescription filled.

#### **Taking ABSTRAL:**

- **Take ABSTRAL exactly as prescribed. Do not take ABSTRAL more often than prescribed.**
- **If you notice that your tablets are a different shape or color**, be sure to check with your pharmacist to make sure you have the right strength of medicine.
- **Do not** suck, chew or swallow the tablet.
- **See the detailed Patient Instructions for Use at the end of this Medication Guide for information about how to take ABSTRAL the right way.**
- Your healthcare provider will change the dose until you and your healthcare provider find the right dose for you.
- You must not use more than 2 doses of ABSTRAL for each episode of breakthrough cancer pain:
  - Take 1 dose for an episode of breakthrough cancer pain.
  - If your breakthrough pain does not get better within 30 minutes after taking the first dose of ABSTRAL, you can take 1 more dose of ABSTRAL as instructed by your healthcare provider.
  - If your breakthrough pain does not get better after the second dose of ABSTRAL, call your healthcare provider for instructions. **Do not take another dose of ABSTRAL at this time.**
- Wait at least 2 hours before treating a new episode of breakthrough cancer pain with ABSTRAL:
  - If you only need to take 1 dose of ABSTRAL for an episode of breakthrough pain, you must wait 2 hours from the time of that dose to take a dose of ABSTRAL for a **new** episode of breakthrough pain
  - If you need to take 2 doses of ABSTRAL for an episode of breakthrough pain, you must wait 2 hours after the second dose to take a dose of ABSTRAL for a **new** episode of breakthrough pain.
- It is important for you to keep taking your around-the-clock opioid pain medicine while taking

## ABSTRAL.

- Talk to your healthcare provider if your dose of ABSTRAL does not relieve your breakthrough cancer pain. Your healthcare provider will decide if your dose of ABSTRAL needs to be changed.
- Talk to your healthcare provider if you have more than 4 episodes of breakthrough cancer pain per day. The dose of your around-the-clock opioid pain medicine may need to be adjusted.
- If you take too much ABSTRAL or overdose, you or your caregiver should call for emergency medical help or have someone take you to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

### What should I avoid while taking ABSTRAL?

- **Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities** until you know how ABSTRAL affects you. ABSTRAL can make you sleepy. Ask your healthcare provider when it is okay to do these activities.
- **Do not drink alcohol while using ABSTRAL.** It can increase your chance of getting dangerous side effects.

### What are the possible side effects of ABSTRAL?

#### ABSTRAL can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Breathing problems that can become life-threatening.** See "What is the most important information I should know about ABSTRAL?"
  - Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical help right away if you:
    - have trouble breathing
    - have drowsiness with slowed breathing
    - have shallow breathing (little chest movement with breathing)
    - feel faint, very dizzy, confused, or have other unusual symptomsThese symptoms can be a sign that you have taken too much ABSTRAL or the dose is too high for you. **These symptoms may lead to serious problems or death if not treated right away. If you have any of these symptoms, do not take any more ABSTRAL until you have talked to your healthcare provider.**
2. **Decreased blood pressure.** This can make you feel dizzy or lightheaded if you get up too fast from sitting or lying down.
3. **Physical dependence. Do not stop taking ABSTRAL or any other opioid, without talking to your healthcare provider.** You could become sick with uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms because your body has become used to these medicines. Physical dependency is not the same as drug addiction.
4. **A chance of abuse or addiction.** This chance is higher if you are or have ever been addicted to or abused other medicines, street drugs, or alcohol, or if you have a history of mental health problems.

The most common side effects of ABSTRAL are:

- nausea
- sleepiness
- headache

Constipation (not often enough or hard bowel movements) is a very common side effect of pain medicines (opioids) including ABSTRAL and is unlikely to go away without treatment. Talk to your healthcare provider about dietary changes, and the use of laxatives (medicines to treat constipation) and stool softeners to prevent or treat constipation while taking ABSTRAL.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of ABSTRAL. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about your side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

### How should I store ABSTRAL?

- **Always keep ABSTRAL in a safe place away from children and from anyone for whom it has not been prescribed.** Protect ABSTRAL from theft.
- Store ABSTRAL at room temperature, 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C) until ready to use.
- Keep ABSTRAL in the original blister unit. Do not remove ABSTRAL tablets from their blister packaging for storage in a temporary container, such as a pillbox.

### How should I dispose of unopened ABSTRAL tablets when they are no longer needed?

- Dispose of any unopened ABSTRAL units remaining from a prescription as soon as you no longer need them:
  - remove the tablets from the blister cards and flush them down the toilet.
- Do not flush the ABSTRAL blister cards, units or cartons down the toilet.
- If you need help with disposal of ABSTRAL, call Galena Biopharma, Inc., at 1-888-227-8725 or call your local Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) office.

### General information about ABSTRAL

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. **Use ABSTRAL only for the purpose for which it was prescribed. Do not give ABSTRAL to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have.** ABSTRAL can harm other people and even cause death. Sharing ABSTRAL is against the law.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about ABSTRAL. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about ABSTRAL that is written for healthcare professionals.

For more information about the TIRF REMS Access program, go to [www.TIRFREMSAccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSAccess.com) or call 1-866-822-1483.

### What are the ingredients in ABSTRAL?

Active Ingredient: fentanyl citrate

Inactive Ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, mannitol, and silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

### Patient Instructions for Use

Before you take ABSTRAL, it is important that you read the Medication Guide and these Patient Instructions for Use. Be sure that you read, understand, and follow these Patient Instructions for Use so that you take ABSTRAL the right way. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have questions about the right way to take ABSTRAL.

### When you get an episode of breakthrough pain, take the dose prescribed by your healthcare provider as follows:

- If your mouth is dry, take a sip of water to moisten it. Spit out or swallow the water. Dry your hands if they are wet before you handle ABSTRAL tablets.
- ABSTRAL comes in a blister card with 4 blister units. Each blister unit contains an ABSTRAL tablet. It is important that the tablet stays sealed in the blister unit until you are ready to use it.
- When you are ready to take an ABSTRAL tablet, pull apart 1 of the blister units from the blister card by tearing along the dotted lines (perforations) until it is fully separated. (See Figures 1 and 2)



Figure 1

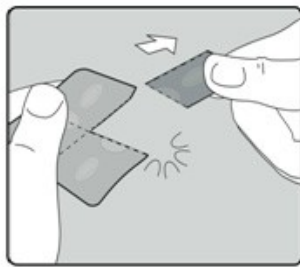


Figure 2

- When the blister unit is fully separated, peel back the foil starting at the unsealed area where indicated. Gently remove the tablet. **Do not** try to push ABSTRAL tablets through the foil. This will damage the tablet. (See Figures 3 and 4)

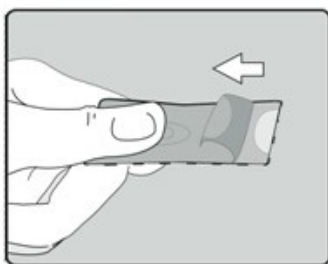


Figure 3

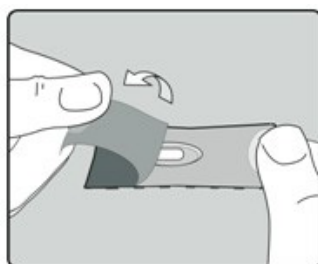


Figure 4

- As soon as you remove the ABSTRAL tablet from the blister unit:
  - place it on the floor of your mouth, under your tongue, as far back as you can (See Figures 5, 6, and 7).



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

- If more than 1 tablet is required, spread them around the floor of your mouth under your tongue.
- Let the tablet dissolve completely.  
ABSTRAL dissolves under your tongue and will be absorbed by your body to help provide relief for your breakthrough cancer pain.
- **Do not suck, chew or swallow the tablet.**
- You should not drink or eat anything until the tablet has completely dissolved under your tongue and you can no longer feel it in your mouth.

Manufactured by:  
Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.

Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Manufactured for:  
Galena Biopharma, Inc.  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Issued: July 2013

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Copyright © 2013, Galena Biopharma, Inc. All rights reserved.

ABSTRAL and Galena Biopharma are trademarks owned by the Galena Biopharma, Inc.

**Initial REMS approval: 12/2011**

**Most recent modification: 7/2013**

**TRANSMUCOSAL IMMEDIATE RELEASE FENTANYL (TIRF)  
RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY (REMS)**

## I. GOALS

The goals of the TIRF REMS Access program are to mitigate the risk of misuse, abuse, addiction, overdose and serious complications due to medication errors by:

1. Prescribing and dispensing TIRF medicines only to appropriate patients, which includes use only in opioid-tolerant patients.
2. Preventing inappropriate conversion between TIRF medicines.
3. Preventing accidental exposure to children and others for whom it was not prescribed.
4. Educating prescribers, pharmacists, and patients on the potential for misuse, abuse, addiction, and overdose of TIRF medicines.

## II. REMS ELEMENTS

### A. Medication Guide

The product-specific TIRF Medication Guide will be dispensed with each TIRF prescription in accordance with 21 CFR 208.24.

The Medication Guides for TIRF medicines are part of the TIRF REMS Access program and will be available on the TIRF REMS Access website ([www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com)).

### B. Elements to Assure Safe Use

#### 1. Healthcare providers who prescribe TIRF medicines for outpatient use are specially certified.

- a. TIRF sponsors will ensure that healthcare providers who prescribe TIRF medicines for outpatient use are specially certified.
- b. To become certified to prescribe TIRF medicines, prescribers will be required to enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program. Prescribers must complete the following requirements to be enrolled:
  - i. Review the TIRF REMS Access education materials ([TIRF REMS Access Education Program](#)), including the Full Prescribing Information (FPI) for each TIRF medicine, and successfully complete the Knowledge Assessment ([Knowledge Assessment](#)).
  - ii. Complete and sign the [Prescriber Enrollment Form](#). In signing the *Prescriber Enrollment Form*, each prescriber is required to acknowledge the following:
    - a) I have reviewed the TIRF REMS Access Education Program, and I have completed the Knowledge Assessment. I understand the responsible use conditions for TIRF medicines and the risks and benefits of chronic opioid therapy.
    - b) I understand that TIRF medicines can be abused and that this risk should be considered when prescribing or dispensing TIRF medicines in situations

where I am concerned about an increased risk of misuse, abuse, or overdose, whether accidental or intentional.

- c) I understand that TIRF medicines are indicated only for the management of breakthrough pain in patients with cancer, who are already receiving and who are tolerant to around-the-clock opioid therapy for their underlying persistent pain.
- d) I understand that TIRF medicines are contraindicated for use in opioid non-tolerant patients, and know that fatal overdose can occur at any dose.
- e) I understand that TIRF medicines must not be used to treat any contraindicated conditions described in the FPI, such as acute or postoperative pain, including headache/migraine.
- f) I understand that converting patients from one TIRF medicine to a different TIRF medicine must not be done on a microgram-per-microgram basis. I understand that TIRF medicines are not interchangeable with each other, regardless of route of administration, and that conversion may result in fatal overdose, unless conversion is done in accordance with labeled product-specific conversion recommendations (refer to the 'List of TIRF Medicines Available only through the TIRF REMS Access program' in Attachment 1). Note, a branded TIRF medicine and its specific generic product(s) are interchangeable.
- g) I understand that the initial starting dose for TIRF medicines for all patients is the lowest dose, unless individual product labels provide product-specific conversion recommendations, and I understand that patients must be titrated individually.
- h) I will provide a Medication Guide for the TIRF medicine that I intend to prescribe to my patient or their caregiver and review it with them. If I convert my patient to a different TIRF medicine, the Medication Guide for the new TIRF medicine will be provided to, and reviewed with, my patient or their caregiver.
- i) I will complete and sign a TIRF REMS Access [Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form](#) with each new patient, before writing the patient's first prescription for a TIRF medicine, and **renew the agreement every two (2) years**.
- j) I will provide a completed, signed copy of the *Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form* to the patient and retain a copy for my records. I will also provide a completed, signed copy to the TIRF REMS Access program (through the TIRF REMS Access website or by fax) within ten (10) working days.
- k) At all follow-up visits, I agree to assess the patient for appropriateness of the dose of the TIRF medicine, and for signs of misuse and abuse.
- l) I understand that TIRF medicines are only available through the TIRF REMS Access program. I understand and agree to comply with the TIRF REMS Access program requirements for prescribers.

- m) I understand that I must re-enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program and successfully complete the enrollment requirements every two (2) years.

In signing the *Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form*, the prescriber documents the following:

- 1) My patient is currently using around-the-clock opioid medication and has been for at least one (1) week.
- 2) My patient is opioid-tolerant. Patients considered opioid-tolerant are those who are regularly taking at least: 60 mg oral morphine/day; 25 micrograms transdermal fentanyl/hour; 30 mg oral oxycodone/day; 8 mg oral hydromorphone/day; 25 mg oral oxymorphone/day; or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid for one week or longer.
- 3) I have provided to, and reviewed with, my patient or their caregiver the Medication Guide for the TIRF medicine I intend to prescribe.
- 4) If I change my patient to a different TIRF medicine, I will provide the Medication Guide for the new TIRF medicine to my patient or my patient's caregiver, and I will review it with them.
- 5) I understand that if I change my patient to a different TIRF medicine, the initial dose of that TIRF medicine for all patients is the lowest dose, unless individual product labels provide product-specific conversion recommendations.
- 6) I have counseled my patient or their caregiver about the risks, benefits, and appropriate use of TIRF medicines including communication of the following safety messages:
  - A. If you stop taking your around-the-clock pain medicine, you must stop taking your TIRF medicine.
  - B. NEVER share your TIRF medicine.
  - C. Giving a TIRF medicine to someone for whom it has not been prescribed can result in a fatal overdose.
  - D. TIRF medicines can be fatal to a child; used and unused dosage units must be safely stored out of the reach of children living in or likely to visit the home and disposed of in accordance with the specific disposal instructions detailed in the product's Medication Guide.

I will ensure that the patient and/or caregiver understand that, in signing the *Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form*, they document the following:

- 1) My prescriber has given me a copy of the Medication Guide for the TIRF medicine I have been prescribed, and has reviewed it with me.

- 2) I understand that before I can take any TIRF medicine, I must be regularly using another opioid pain medicine, around-the-clock, for my constant pain.
  - 3) I understand that if I stop taking my around-the-clock opioid pain medicine for my constant pain, I must stop taking my TIRF medicine.
  - 4) I understand how I should take this TIRF medicine, including how much I can take, and how often I can take it. If my prescriber prescribes a different TIRF medicine for me, I will ensure I understand how to take the new TIRF medicine.
  - 5) I understand that any TIRF medicine can cause serious side effects, including life-threatening breathing problems which can lead to death, especially if I do not take my TIRF medicine exactly as my prescriber has directed me to take it.
  - 6) I agree to contact my prescriber if my TIRF medicine does not relieve my pain. I will not change the dose of my TIRF medicine myself or take it more often than my prescriber has directed.
  - 7) I agree that I will never give my TIRF medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same symptoms, since it may harm them or even cause death.
  - 8) I will store my TIRF medicine in a safe place away from children and teenagers because accidental use by a child, or anyone for whom it was not prescribed, is a medical emergency and can cause death.
  - 9) I have been instructed on how to properly dispose of my partially used or unneeded TIRF medicine remaining from my prescription, and will dispose of my TIRF medicine as soon as I no longer need it.
  - 10) I understand that selling or giving away my TIRF medicine is against the law.
  - 11) I have asked my prescriber all the questions I have about my TIRF medicine. If I have any additional questions or concerns in the future about my treatment with my TIRF medicine, I will contact my prescriber.
  - 12) I have reviewed the "Patient Privacy Notice for the TIRF REMS Access Program" and I agree to its terms and conditions which allow my healthcare providers to share my health information, as defined in that document, with the makers of TIRF medicines (TIRF Sponsors) and their agents and contractors for the limited purpose of managing the TIRF REMS Access program.
- c. Prescribers are required to re-enroll every two (2) years. Additionally, prescribers must re-counsel their patients and complete a new Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form every two (2) years.

- d. TIRF Sponsors will:
- i. Ensure that prescriber enrollment can successfully be completed via the TIRF REMS Access website, or by mailing or faxing the forms.
  - ii. Ensure that, as part of the enrollment process, the following materials that are part of the TIRF REMS Access program are available to prescribers. These materials are appended:
    - [TIRF REMS Access Prescriber Program Overview](#)
    - [TIRF REMS Access Education Program](#)
    - [Knowledge Assessment](#)
    - [Prescriber Enrollment Form](#)
    - [Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form](#)
    - [TIRF REMS Access Patient and Caregiver Overview](#)
    - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
    - [TIRF REMS Access Website](#)
  - iii. Ensure that prescribers have successfully completed the Knowledge Assessment, and ensure that enrollment forms are complete before activating a prescriber's enrollment in the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - iv. Ensure that prescribers are notified when they are successfully enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program, and therefore, are certified to prescribe TIRF medicines.
  - v. Monitor education and enrollment requirements for prescribers and may inactivate non-compliant prescribers. Upon initial activation, prescribers remain active until inactivation occurs or expiration of the enrollment period.
  - vi. Ensure that prior to the first availability of the TIRF REMS Access program/website, [Dear Healthcare Provider Letters](#) will be sent. The target audience for the letters will include pain management specialists (comprised of anesthesiologists, physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians), primary care physicians, oncologists, oncology nurse practitioners who treat breakthrough pain in patients with cancer, and other appropriately licensed healthcare professionals who prescribe TIRF medicines. The letter will include information on the risks associated with the use of TIRF medicines and will explain to healthcare providers that if they wish to treat patients using TIRF medicines, they must enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program. The letters will be available on the TIRF REMS Access website for 1 year from the date of the mailing.

The [Dear Healthcare Provider Letter](#) is part of the TIRF REMS Access program and is appended.

**2. TIRF medicines will only be dispensed by pharmacies that are specially certified.**

- a. TIRF Sponsors will ensure that TIRF medicines will only be dispensed by certified pharmacies. To become certified to dispense TIRF medicines, each pharmacy must be enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program.
- b. Each pharmacy will be required to designate an authorized pharmacy representative (chain pharmacy) or authorized pharmacist (outpatient and inpatient pharmacies) to complete enrollment on behalf of the pharmacy(s).
- c. There are different enrollment requirements for :
  - **outpatient pharmacies** (e.g., retail, mail order, institutional outpatient pharmacies that dispense for outpatient use), including chain pharmacies, but excluding closed system pharmacies (see definition below).
  - **closed system pharmacies** For the purposes of this REMS, a closed system pharmacy is defined as an outpatient pharmacy that uses a pharmacy management system that does not support the process of electronically transmitting the validation and claim information currently required by the TIRF REMS Access program. For example, some pharmacies that are part of integrated healthcare delivery systems may qualify as closed system pharmacies.
  - **inpatient pharmacies** (e.g., hospitals, in-hospital hospices, and long-term care facilities that dispense for inpatient use)

**d. *Outpatient Pharmacies:***

The authorized pharmacist/pharmacy representative must complete the following requirements to enroll their **outpatient pharmacy**:

- i. Review the TIRF REMS Access Education Program ([TIRF REMS Access Education Program](#)) and successfully complete the [Knowledge Assessment](#).
- ii. Ensure the pharmacy enables its pharmacy management system to support communication with the TIRF REMS Access program system, using established telecommunication standards, and runs the standardized validation test transaction to validate the system enhancements.
- iii. Complete and sign the [Outpatient Pharmacy Enrollment Form](#) or the [Chain Pharmacy Enrollment Form](#) for groups of associated pharmacies. In signing the *Outpatient Pharmacy Enrollment Form* or *Chain Pharmacy Enrollment Form*, the authorized pharmacist is required to acknowledge the following:
  - a) I have reviewed the TIRF REMS Access Education Program, and I have completed the Knowledge Assessment. I understand the risks and benefits associated with TIRF medicines and the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program for pharmacies.
  - b) I will ensure that all pharmacy staff who participate in dispensing TIRF medicines are educated on the risks associated with TIRF medicines and the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program, as described in the *TIRF REMS Access Education Program*. This training should be documented and is subject to audit.

- c) I understand that converting patients from one TIRF medicine to a different TIRF medicine must not be done on a microgram-per-microgram basis. I understand that TIRF medicines are not interchangeable with each other, regardless of route of administration, and that conversion may result in fatal overdose, unless conversion is done in accordance with labeled product-specific conversion recommendations (refer to the 'List of TIRF Medicines available only through the TIRF REMS Access Program' in Attachment 1). Note, a branded TIRF medicine and its specific generic product(s) are interchangeable.
- d) I understand that TIRF medicines are contraindicated for use in opioid non-tolerant patients.
- e) I understand that the initial starting dose of TIRF medicines for all patients is the lowest dose, unless individual product labels provide product-specific conversion recommendations, and I understand that patients must be titrated individually.
- f) I understand the importance of discussing the risks and benefits of TIRF medicines with patients and their caregivers, and in particular the importance of taking the drug as prescribed, not sharing with others, and proper disposal.
- g) I understand that the product-specific Medication Guide must be given to the patient or their caregiver each time a TIRF medicine is dispensed.
- h) I understand that TIRF medicines will not be dispensed without verifying through our pharmacy management system that the prescriber and pharmacy are enrolled and active, and that the patient has not been inactivated in the program.
- i) I understand that ALL TIRF medicine prescriptions, regardless of the method of payment, must be processed through our pharmacy management system.
- j) I understand that all dispensing locations must be enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program to dispense TIRF medicines.
- k) I understand that TIRF medicines can only be obtained from wholesalers/distributors that are enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program.
- l) I understand that our pharmacy will not sell, loan or transfer any TIRF medicine inventory to any other pharmacy, institution, distributor, or prescriber.
- m) I understand that our pharmacy must re-enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program and successfully complete the enrollment requirements every two (2) years.
- n) I understand that TIRF medicines are only available through the TIRF REMS Access program. I understand that the pharmacy must comply with the TIRF REMS Access program requirements for outpatient pharmacies.

**e. Closed System Pharmacies:**

The authorized pharmacist/pharmacy representative must complete the following requirements to enroll their **closed system pharmacy**:

- i. Review the TIRF REMS Access Education Program ([TIRF REMS Access Education Program](#)) and successfully complete the [Knowledge Assessment](#).
- ii. Complete and sign the [Closed System Pharmacy Enrollment Form](#). In signing the *Closed System Pharmacy Enrollment Form*, the authorized closed system pharmacy representative is required to acknowledge the following:
  - a) I have reviewed the TIRF REMS Access Education Program, and I have completed the Knowledge Assessment. I understand the risks and benefits associated with TIRF medicines and the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program for pharmacies.
  - b) I will ensure that all pharmacy staff who participate in dispensing TIRF medicines are educated on the risks associated with TIRF medicines and the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program, as described in the *TIRF REMS Access Education Program*. This training should be documented and is subject to audit.
  - c) I understand that converting patients from one TIRF medicine to a different TIRF medicine must not be done on a microgram-per-microgram basis. I understand that TIRF medicines are not interchangeable with each other, regardless of route of administration, and that conversion may result in fatal overdose, unless conversion is done in accordance with labeled product-specific conversion recommendations (refer to the 'List of TIRF Medicines available only through the TIRF REMS Access Program' in Attachment 1). Note, a branded TIRF medicine and its specific generic product(s) are interchangeable.
  - d) I understand that TIRF medicines are contraindicated for use in opioid non-tolerant patients.
  - e) I understand that the initial starting dose for TIRF medicines for all patients is the lowest dose, unless individual product labels provide product-specific conversion recommendations, and I understand that patients must be titrated individually.
  - f) I understand the importance of discussing the risks and benefits of TIRF medicines with patients and their caregivers, and in particular the importance of taking the drug as prescribed, not sharing with others, and proper disposal.
  - g) I understand that the product-specific Medication Guide must be given to the patient or their caregiver each time a TIRF medicine is dispensed.
  - h) I understand that a TIRF medicine will not be dispensed without obtaining a TIRF REMS Access prescription authorization number issued by the TIRF REMS Access program prior to dispensing the prescription. A TIRF REMS Access prescription authorization number verifies that the prescriber and

pharmacy are enrolled and active, and that the patient has not been inactivated from the program.

- i) I understand that all dispensing locations must be enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program to dispense TIRF medicines
- j) I understand that TIRF medicines can only be obtained from wholesalers/distributors that are enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program.
- k) I understand that our pharmacy will not sell, loan or transfer any TIRF inventory to any other pharmacy, institution, distributor, or prescriber.
- l) I understand that our pharmacy must re-enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program every two (2) years.
- m) I understand that TIRF medicines are only available through the TIRF REMS Access program. I understand that the pharmacy must comply with the TIRF REMS Access program requirements for outpatient closed system pharmacies.

**f. Inpatient Pharmacies:**

The authorized pharmacist must complete the following requirements to successfully enroll their **inpatient pharmacy**:

- i. Review the TIRF REMS Access Education Program ([TIRF REMS Access Education Program](#)) and successfully complete the pharmacy [Knowledge Assessment](#).
- ii. Complete and sign the [Inpatient Pharmacy Enrollment Form](#). In signing the *Inpatient Pharmacy Enrollment Form*, the authorized pharmacist is required to acknowledge the following:
  - a) I have reviewed the TIRF REMS Access Education Program, and I have completed the Knowledge Assessment. I understand the benefits and risks associated with TIRF medicines and the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program for pharmacies.
  - b) I will ensure that our inpatient pharmacists are educated on the risks associated with TIRF medicines and the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program, as described in the [TIRF REMS Access Education Program](#).
  - c) I understand that converting patients from one TIRF medicine to a different TIRF medicine must not be done on a microgram-per-microgram basis. I understand that TIRF medicines are not interchangeable with each other, regardless of route of administration, and that conversion may result in fatal overdose, unless conversion is done in accordance with labeled product-specific conversion recommendations (refer to the 'List of TIRF Medicines available only through the

TIRF REMS Access Program' in Attachment 1). Note, a branded TIRF medicine and its specific generic product(s) are interchangeable.

- d) I understand that TIRF medicines are contraindicated for use in opioid non-tolerant patients.
  - e) I understand that the initial starting dose for TIRF medicines for all patients is the lowest dose, unless individual product labels provide product-specific conversion recommendations, and I understand that patients must be titrated individually.
  - f) I understand that pharmacies within or associated with the healthcare facility that dispense to outpatients must be separately enrolled in and comply with the TIRF REMS Access program to dispense TIRF medicines to outpatients, as described in section B.2.d, above.
  - g) I understand that our inpatient pharmacy must not dispense TIRF medicines for outpatient use.
  - h) I understand that a prescriber who wants to discharge a patient with a TIRF medicine prescription, intended to be dispensed by an outpatient pharmacy, will be required to enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program, as described in section B.1 of this REMS.
  - i) I will establish, or oversee the establishment of, a system, order sets, protocols and/or other measures to help ensure appropriate patient selection and compliance with the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - j) I understand that our pharmacy will not sell, loan or transfer any TIRF inventory to any other pharmacy, institution, distributor, or prescriber.
  - k) I understand that TIRF medicines can only be obtained from wholesalers/distributors that are enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - l) I understand that our pharmacy must re-enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program every two (2) years.
  - m) I understand that TIRF medicines are available only through the TIRF REMS Access program. I understand and agree to comply with the TIRF REMS Access program requirements for inpatient pharmacies.
- g. Pharmacies (authorized pharmacist) are required to re-enroll every two (2) years.
- h. TIRF Sponsors will:
- i. Ensure that pharmacy enrollment can successfully be completed via the TIRF REMS Access website, by mailing or faxing the forms.
  - ii. Ensure that, as part of the enrollment process, the following materials that are part of the TIRF REMS Access program are available to pharmacies. These materials are appended:
    - The TIRF REMS Access Program Overview (*Outpatient Pharmacy, Chain Pharmacy or Inpatient Pharmacy*, as applicable)

- [TIRF REMS Access Education Program](#)
  - [Knowledge Assessment](#)
  - *Pharmacy Enrollment Form (Outpatient, Chain, Closed System, or Inpatient, as applicable)*
  - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
  - [TIRF REMS Access Website](#)
- iii. Ensure that all enrollment forms are complete, and that the authorized pharmacist has successfully completed the Knowledge Assessment before activating a pharmacy's enrollment in the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - iv. For **outpatient pharmacies** (including chain pharmacies) only, TIRF Sponsors will also ensure that the configurations to the pharmacy management system have been validated before enrolling a pharmacy in the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - v. For **closed system pharmacies** only, TIRF Sponsors will ensure that, prior to authorizing a pharmacy's enrollment as a closed system pharmacy, the pharmacy meets the requirements of being deemed a 'closed system' pharmacy (see II.B.2.c)
  - vi. Ensure that pharmacies are notified when they are successfully enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program, and therefore, certified to dispense TIRF medicines.
  - vii. Monitor education and enrollment requirements for pharmacies and inactivate non-compliant pharmacies. Upon initial activation of enrollment, pharmacies remain active until a corrective action of inactivation occurs or expiration of the enrollment period.
  - viii. Ensure that prior to first availability of the TIRF REMS Access program/website, *Dear Pharmacy Letters* will be sent (one for inpatient pharmacies and one for outpatient pharmacies). The target audience for the letter will include outpatient and inpatient pharmacies that dispense Schedule II drugs and may be involved in dispensing TIRF medicines. The letter will include information on the risks associated with the use of TIRF medicines and the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program. The letter will be available on the TIRF REMS Access website for 1 year from the date of the mailing.

The *Dear Pharmacy Letters* ([Outpatient](#) and [Inpatient](#)) are part of the TIRF REMS Access program. These materials are appended.

**3. TIRF medicines will only be dispensed for outpatient use with evidence or other documentation of safe-use conditions.**

- a. TIRF Sponsors will ensure that TIRF medicines will only be dispensed for outpatient use if there is documentation in the TIRF REMS Access program system that the dispensing pharmacy and prescriber are enrolled and active, and the patient is not inactive in the TIRF REMS Access program.
- b. Patients are passively enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program when their first TIRF medicine prescription is processed at the pharmacy. Patients may continue to receive TIRF medicines while passively enrolled, for up to ten working days, as described in

section II.C.5. Prescribers and outpatient pharmacies (including closed system outpatient pharmacies) are enrolled, as previously described in sections B.1 and B.2, respectively.

- c. For **outpatient pharmacies**: Prior to dispensing TIRF medicines, enrolled outpatient pharmacies will electronically verify documentation of the required enrollments by processing the TIRF prescription through their pharmacy management system.
  - i. If the required enrollments are verified, a unique authorization code will be issued to allow processing and dispensing of the prescription to the patient.
  - ii. If one or more of the required enrollments cannot be verified, the TIRF REMS Access program system will reject the prescription (prior to a claim being forwarded to the payer) and the pharmacy will receive a rejection notice.
- d. For **closed system pharmacies**: prior to dispensing TIRF medicines, enrolled closed system pharmacies will verify documentation of the required enrollments by contacting the TIRF REMS Access program at 1-866-822-1483, or via fax, and providing the required information from the TIRF prescription.
  - i. If the required enrollments are verified, the TIRF REMS Access program will provide a unique authorization code to allow processing and dispensing of the prescription to the patient.
  - ii. If one or more of the required enrollments cannot be verified, a rejection reason, and information regarding how to resolve the rejection, will be provided.
- e. Following initial activation, patients remain active until a trigger for inactivation occurs. Triggers for patient inactivation include:
  - i. The patient has not filled a prescription for more than six (6) months.
  - ii. The patient receives prescriptions for TIRF medicines from multiple prescribers within an overlapping time frame that is suggestive of misuse, abuse, or addiction.
- f. If an active patient transfers from an enrolled prescriber to a non-enrolled or inactive prescriber, the TIRF REMS Access program cannot fill the prescription for TIRF medicines until the new prescriber is active in the TIRF REMS Access program.
- g. A patient may have more than one current prescriber (e.g., pain management specialist, primary care physician) provided that prescriptions for TIRF medicines are not for the same or overlapping period of treatment.
- h. Documentation and verification of safe-use conditions are not required for prescriptions ordered within an inpatient healthcare setting and given to an inpatient.

### C. Implementation System

1. TIRF Sponsors will ensure that wholesalers/distributors who distribute TIRF medicines are enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program. The wholesaler/distributor enrollment process is comprised of the following steps that must be completed by the distributor's authorized representative, prior to receiving TIRF medicine inventory for distribution:
  - a. Review the distributor TIRF REMS Access program materials
  - b. Complete and sign the [Distributor Enrollment Form](#) and send it to the TIRF Sponsors (by fax or mail). In signing the *Distributor Enrollment Form*, each

wholesaler/distributor is required to indicate they understand that TIRF medicines are available only through the TIRF REMS Access program and acknowledges that they must comply with the following program requirements:

- i. The Wholesaler/Distributor will ensure that relevant staff are trained on the TIRF REMS Access program procedures and will follow the requirements of the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - ii. The Wholesaler/Distributor will ensure that TIRF medicines are only distributed to pharmacies whose enrollment has been validated in the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - iii. The Wholesaler/Distributor will provide complete, unblinded and unblocked data (i.e. EDI 867 transmission) to the TIRF REMS Access program including information on shipments to enrolled pharmacies.
  - iv. The Wholesaler/Distributor will cooperate with periodic audits or non-compliance investigations to ensure that TIRF medicines are distributed in accordance with the program requirements.
- c. TIRF Sponsors will ensure that all forms are complete prior to enrolling a distributor in the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - d. TIRF Sponsors will notify distributors when they are enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program and, therefore, able to distribute TIRF medicines.
  - e. Upon initial activation, distributors remain active until an action of inactivation occurs, expiration of the enrollment period, or failure to comply with the pharmacy enrollment verification obligations. If a previously active distributor becomes inactive, the distributor may become active again by completing the distributor enrollment process in its entirety.
  - f. Distributors will be re-educated and re-enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program every two (2) years.
  - g. The following distributor materials are part of the TIRF REMS Access program. These materials are appended:
    - [Dear Distributor Letter](#)
    - [Distributor Enrollment Form](#)
    - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
2. TIRF Sponsors will maintain a database of all enrolled entities (prescribers, pharmacies, patients, and distributors) and their status (i.e. active or inactive), and will monitor and evaluate implementation of the TIRF REMS Access program requirements.
  3. For **outpatient pharmacies**, TIRF Sponsors will develop a TIRF REMS Access program system that uses existing pharmacy management systems that allow for the transmission of TIRF REMS Access information using established telecommunication standards. The TIRF REMS Access program system will incorporate an open framework that allows a variety of distributors, systems vendors, pharmacies, and prescribers to participate, and that is flexible enough to support the expansion or modification of the TIRF REMS Access program requirements, if deemed necessary in the future.
  4. For **closed system pharmacies**, TIRF Sponsors will develop a system to allow enrollment and verification of safe use conditions through a telephone system and/or fax.

TIRF Sponsors will monitor distribution data and prescription data to ensure that only actively enrolled distributors are distributing, actively enrolled pharmacies are dispensing, and actively enrolled prescribers for outpatient use are prescribing TIRF medicines. Additionally, TIRF Sponsors will monitor to ensure that, when dispensing in an outpatient setting, TIRF medicines are only being dispensed to actively enrolled patients of actively enrolled prescribers. Corrective action or inactivation will be instituted by TIRF Sponsors if non-compliance is found.

5. TIRF Sponsors will monitor prescribers' compliance with the requirement to complete a [Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form](#) with each TIRF patient, and to submit it to the TIRF REMS Access program within ten (10) working days. A maximum of three prescriptions are allowed within 10 working days from when the patient has their first prescription filled. No further prescriptions will be dispensed after the 10 working day window until a completed [Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form](#) is received. This will be accomplished by reconciling the [Patient-Prescriber Agreements](#) submitted to the TIRF REMS Access program with patient enrollment data captured through the pharmacy management system for **outpatient pharmacies** or through the call center for **closed system pharmacies**.
6. TIRF Sponsors will monitor and evaluate all enrolled outpatient pharmacies (including closed system pharmacies), distributors, and the TIRF REMS Access program vendors to validate the necessary system upgrades and ensure the program is implemented as directed.
7. TIRF Sponsors will evaluate enrolled inpatient pharmacies' compliance with the TIRF REMS Access program requirements through surveys.
8. TIRF Sponsors will maintain a call center to support patients, prescribers, pharmacies, and distributors in interfacing with the TIRF REMS Access program.
9. TIRF Sponsors will ensure that all materials listed in or appended to the TIRF REMS Access program will be available through the TIRF REMS Access program website [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com) or by calling the TIRF REMS Access call center at **1-866-822-1483**.
10. TIRF Sponsors will notify pharmacies, prescribers, and distributors of forthcoming enrollment expiration and the need to re-enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program. Notifications for patients will be sent to the patient's prescriber.
11. If there are substantive changes to the TIRF REMS Access program, TIRF Sponsors will update all affected materials and notify pharmacies, prescribers, and distributors of the changes, as applicable. Notifications for patients will be sent to the patient's prescriber. Substantive changes to the TIRF REMS Access program are defined as:
  - a. Significant changes to the operation of the TIRF REMS Access program.
  - b. Changes to the Prescribing Information and Medication Guide that affect the risk-benefit profile of TIRF medicines.
12. Based on monitoring and evaluation of the REMS Elements to Assure Safe Use, TIRF Sponsors will take reasonable steps to improve implementation of these elements and to maintain compliance with the TIRF REMS Access program requirements, as applicable.

### **III. TIMETABLE FOR SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENTS**

TIRF NDA Sponsors will submit REMS Assessments to the FDA at 6 and 12 months from the date of the initial REMS approval, and annually thereafter. To facilitate inclusion of as much information as possible, while allowing reasonable time to prepare the submission, the reporting interval covered by each assessment should conclude no earlier than 60 days before the submission date for that assessment. TIRF NDA Sponsors will submit each assessment so that it will be received by the FDA on or before the due date.

**Attachment 1:**

**List of TIRF Medicines Available Only through the TIRF REMS Access Program**

- ABSTRAL® (fentanyl) sublingual tablets
- ACTIQ® (fentanyl citrate) oral transmucosal lozenge
- FENTORA® (fentanyl citrate) buccal tablet
- LAZANDA® (fentanyl) nasal spray
- ONSOLIS® (fentanyl buccal soluble film)
- SUBSYS™ (fentanyl sublingual spray)
- Approved generic equivalents of these products are also covered under this program.

The TIRF REMS Access Program – An Overview for Prescribers

## **The Transmucosal Immediate Release Fentanyl (TIRF) REMS Access Program An Overview for Prescribers**

### **What is the TIRF REMS Access Program?**

The TIRF REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) Access program is designed to ensure informed risk-benefit decisions before initiating treatment and, while patients are on treatment to ensure appropriate use of TIRF medicines (refer to the ‘List of TIRF Medicines Available Only through the TIRF REMS Access Program’ in Attachment 1.). Because of the risk for misuse, abuse, addiction, overdose, and serious complications due to medication errors, TIRF medicines are available only through a restricted distribution program required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

To prescribe TIRF medicines, you will need to enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program. Under the TIRF REMS Access program, only prescribers, pharmacies, distributors and patients enrolled in the program are able to prescribe, dispense, distribute, or receive TIRF medicines in an outpatient setting.

TIRF medicines which have previously been available under individual REMS programs have been transitioned to the shared TIRF REMS Access program.

For inpatient administration (e.g. hospitals, in-hospital hospices, and long-term care facilities that prescribe for inpatient use), of TIRF medicines, patient and prescriber enrollment in the TIRF REMS Access program is not required. Only the inpatient pharmacy and distributors are required to be enrolled to be able to order and dispense TIRF medicines for inpatient use. Inpatient pharmacies may not dispense TIRF medicines for outpatient use.

### **TIRF REMS Access Program Enrollment:**

To reduce the risks of inappropriate patient selection and ensure appropriate dosing and administration of TIRF medicines, you will need to be enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program. Enrollment requires you to complete the TIRF REMS Access Education Program and Knowledge Assessment. The TIRF REMS Access Education Program and Knowledge Assessment are available online at the TIRF REMS Access program website ([www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com)) or by contacting the TIRF REMS Access program call center at **1-866-822-1483** to request materials. When you enroll, you will be required to acknowledge your understanding of the appropriate use of TIRF medicines and agree to adhere to the TIRF REMS Access program requirements. Without this enrollment, you will not be eligible to prescribe TIRF medicines for outpatient use. Outpatient prescriptions written by prescribers who are not enrolled, or for patients who are not enrolled, will not be authorized by the TIRF REMS Access program and will not be dispensed to the patient.

If you are already enrolled in an individual REMS program for at least one TIRF medicine, you will be automatically transitioned to the shared TIRF REMS Access program. Your enrollment in the shared TIRF REMS Access program allows prescribing of all TIRF medicines that are covered under the TIRF REMS Access program. You can use your existing secure username and password to access the TIRF REMS website at [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com) and prescribe all TIRF medicines. The TIRF REMS Access Education Program is also available on the shared TIRF REMS Access website ([www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com)). Alternatively, you can request this information by calling **1-866-822-1483**.

## The TIRF REMS Access Program – An Overview for Prescribers

### Overview of the TIRF REMS Access Program for Prescribing to Outpatients: Steps for Enrollment and Program Requirements

#### Prescriber Education & Enrollment (Outpatient Use)

**All enrollment activities can be completed at [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com)**

#### Enrollment Options:

##### ***Option 1: If you are already enrolled in at least one individual REMS Program***

- **Beginning mm/dd/yyyy**, your enrollment information will be automatically entered into the new shared TIRF REMS Access program. Your enrollment in the shared TIRF REMS Access program allows prescribing of all TIRF medicines that are covered under the TIRF REMS Access program. The website for the shared TIRF REMS Access program can be accessed at [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com).
- You can use your existing secure user ID and password from any one of your individual REMS programs to access the TIRF REMS Access website at [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com) and prescribe all TIRF medicines.
  - The user ID and password you use to initially log on will become your permanent user ID and password for the shared TIRF REMS Access program.
- The TIRF REMS Access Education Program is available on the shared TIRF REMS Access website or by calling **1-866-822-1483**. We recommend that you review the TIRF REMS Access Education Program for information on all the products that are available under the TIRF REMS Access program.
- You will be required to re-enroll in the shared TIRF REMS Access program two (2) years after your last enrollment in an individual REMS program if you wish to continue prescribing these products. You will be notified by the TIRF REMS Access program in advance of the need to re-enroll.
- Patients that have already signed a Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form on file will not have to sign another form until their two year enrollment is due.

##### ***Option 2: If you do not have an existing enrollment in any individual REMS program***

- Access the TIRF REMS Access program at [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com) to create an account.
- Review the TIRF REMS Access Education Program materials available at [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com) including the Full Prescribing Information for each product covered in this program, and successfully complete the Knowledge Assessment.
- Enroll in the TIRF REMS Access program by completing the Prescriber Enrollment Form and re-enroll every two (2) years. You will be notified by the TIRF REMS Access program in advance of the need to re-enroll.
- If you are unable to enroll online, please call the TIRF REMS program call center at **1-866-822-1483** for further assistance.

#### Patient Program Requirements:

##### **Patient Education - All Prescribers Who Prescribe to Outpatients**

- Identify appropriate patients based on the guidance provided in the TIRF REMS Access Education program and the product-specific Full Prescribing Information.

## The TIRF REMS Access Program – An Overview for Prescribers

- Counsel the patient about the benefits and risks of TIRF medicines and together review the appropriate product-specific Medication Guide. A Patient and Caregiver Overview is available on the TIRF REMS Access program website.
- Encourage the patient to ask questions.
- Complete the TIRF REMS Access Program Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form, for each new patient, which must be signed by both you and your patient (not required for inpatients).
- Submit the signed Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form to the TIRF REMS Access program through the TIRF REMS Access program website at [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com). Submissions can also be made via fax at 1-866-822-1487.
- The signed Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form must be submitted within 10 working days. A maximum of three prescriptions are allowed within 10 working days from when the patient has their first prescription filled. No further prescriptions will be dispensed after the 10 working day window until a completed PPAF is received.

### Prescribing

- Write a prescription for the appropriate TIRF medicine.
- Help each patient find pharmacies which are enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program. A list of enrolled pharmacies can be found on [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com), or by calling **1-866-822-1483**.
- Inform patients that they can also find a participating pharmacy by calling the TIRF REMS Access program at **1-866-822-1483**.

### Monitoring

- Promptly report suspected adverse events including misuse, abuse, addiction and overdoses directly to the TIRF REMS Access program at **1-866-822-1483**. You also may report adverse event information to the FDA MedWatch Reporting System by telephone at 1-800-FDA-1088 or by mail using Form 3500, available at [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).
- Respond to requests for additional information from the TIRF REMS program.

**If you have any questions or require additional information or further copies of any TIRF REMS documents, please either visit [www.TIRFREMSaccess.com](http://www.TIRFREMSaccess.com), or call the TIRF REMS Access program at 1-866-822-1483.**

The TIRF REMS Access Program – An Overview for Prescribers

**Attachment 1:**

**List of TIRF Medicines Available Only through the TIRF REMS Access Program**

- ABSTRAL® (fentanyl) sublingual tablets
- ACTIQ® (fentanyl citrate) oral transmucosal lozenge
- FENTORA® (fentanyl citrate) buccal tablet
- LAZANDA® (fentanyl) nasal spray
- ONSOLIS® (fentanyl buccal soluble film)
- SUBSYS™ (fentanyl sublingual spray)
- Approved generic equivalents of these products are also covered under this program.