

PHARMACY GUIDELINE – 5

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UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS HEALTH PLANS

(Maricopa Health Plan)

PHARMACY REFERRAL GUIDELINE

DURAGESIC® (FENTANYL) PATCHES

Indication:

- Transdermal narcotic administration systems such as fentanyl patches are indicated for management of chronic, intractable pain such as that which occurs with malignancy.

Criteria for Use:

Fentanyl patches will be approved for patients meeting ALL of the following:

- Patients requiring continuous opioid analgesia who have failed:
 - opioid combinations (acetaminophen-opioid combinations), **and**
 - non-steroidal analgesics **and**
 - prn dosing with short acting opioids **and**
 - long-acting opioids such as methadone or sustained-release morphine
- Patients who do not have an intact GI tract and cannot absorb oral analgesics. Patients with percutaneous gastric feeding tubes are considered to have an intact GI system unless otherwise documented.
- Patients requiring long-term pain management for intractable pain with a documented objective etiology.

Approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee 12/00; Revised and approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee 12/03; Reviewed 12/05, 6/06, 1/08, 5/09