

East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust
Pharmacy Department,
Kent and Canterbury Hospital
Ethelbert Road,
Canterbury,
Kent,
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3rd February 2003

Re: Availability and use of Alfentanyl 5mg in 5ml Spray

To whom it may concern,

This preparation has been obtained by the Pharmacy Department at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital for use on a patient at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury.

This preparation is not readily available, particularly from retail pharmacies, as it is made as a special by Torbay Hospital in Devon and would have to be purchased directly from them by any retail pharmacy wishing to fulfil a prescription. To enable this product to be obtained, please supply a copy of this letter to any retail pharmacy whom you wish to dispense your prescription.

The telephone number for the manufacturing unit at Torbay Hospital is 01803 664707 and their Fax number is 01803 664354. No order will be dispatched unless a copy of the order is faxed to the unit.

Please bear in mind that orders are sent out through the normal postal services and it would be prudent to leave at least 5 working days between placing any order and expecting it's delivery.

In extreme emergencies it may be possible for a retail pharmacy to purchase a small supply of this preparation from the Pharmacy Department at KCH, but a supply from the hospital cannot be guaranteed.

Assembly and Use

An Alfentanyl Spray comes in two parts. There is an amber glass bottle containing 5ml of Alfentanyl 5mg in 5ml solution and a plastic bag containing a sterile nasal/buccal spray pump unit. There are three white plastic elements present within the plastic bag, the pump mechanism – a white cap which will screw onto the glass bottle with two thin plastic tubes coming from it, the buccal spray head – a spray button with 4 inch long delivery tube and the nasal spray head – a nostril shaped spray head with clear plastic cover

To assemble a spray, aseptically open the plastic bag and push the buccal spray head onto the shorter of the two plastic tubes of the pump mechanism. Open the amber glass bottle and screw the pump mechanism (plus buccal spray head) onto the bottle. The nasal spray head is not required and should be disposed of appropriately.

Once the pump has been assembled it can only be used for 28 days and any remaining solution must be appropriately discarded and a new spray started.

Before the pump is used for the first time, it will need to be primed. This is achieved by fully depressing the spray button twice and this fills the pump mechanism. This only needs to be done when first setting up the pump not before each use.

To use the spray, place the delivery tube inside the mouth and spray the required number of sprays onto the inside of the cheek.

Yours sincerely

Neile Taylor
Palliative Care Pharmacist