



Madison County EMS



Fentanyl Guideline

Fentanyl Citrate, also known as Sublimaze, is a synthetic opioid agonist 80-100 times more potent than morphine. It has numerous applications in the EMS setting for pain control and post-intubation sedation. Most important are the rapid onset of action and mild to moderate duration of action. In comparison to morphine which has a relatively high histamine release after injection, fentanyl has very little release of histamine, making this drug appropriate for inducing analgesia in the mild/moderate hypotensive patient. Due to the controversial nature of this drug's relative abuse potential, every provider must be vigilant during accountability procedures. It will be kept in the drug bags and exchanged through the pyxis machine at CRH by a nurse on a one for one basis.

Actions: narcotic analgesia

1. Onset of action 30 seconds for IV and 7 minutes for IM administration
2. Duration of action is 30-60 minutes

Indications:

1. Pain Management
2. Post-intubation Sedation

Contraindications:

1. Sensitivity to fentanyl
2. Uncorrected shock

Precautions:

1. Significant hypotension secondary to shock
2. Respiratory depression
3. Give slowly, rapid infusion could cause muscle rigidity
4. Use of MAO inhibitors
5. Pregnancy category C
6. Undiagnosed abdominal pain

Administration:

1. Slow IV/IO/IM
2. Supply: (1) 250 mcg in 5 ml (50 mcg/ml)
3. **Adult dose for pain with SBP >90: 25-100 mcg q10 minutes**, titrating to pain, **not to exceed 400 mcg total**. **Medical Command** can be contacted for additional orders above 400 mcg.
4. **Adult post-intubation sedation dose in RSI with SBP >90: 2 mcg/kg initially, 0.5-1.0 mcg/kg q15 minutes thereafter, titrating to airway status and level of sedation.**
5. **Peds dose for pain: 2 mcg/kg**. **Medical Command** can be contacted for a repeat dose.
6. Continuous ECG, pulse oximetry, and blood pressure monitoring (every 5 minutes) are mandatory during, and after Fentanyl administration.
7. If there is any acute drop in blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate, or mental status, the following are mandatory:
 - a. Administration of Fentanyl must stop immediately regardless of pain level.
 - b. ETCO₂ monitoring must be initiated.
 - c. **Medical command** must be contacted before any further doses.

Side Effects:

1. Miosis, nausea, vomiting, respiratory depression, and euphoria.
2. Give Narcan if reaction becomes severe.