IONSYS®
(fentanyl iontophoretic transdermal system)℄

IMPORTANT DRUG WARNING

Subject: Risk of respiratory depression resulting from accidental exposure to IONSYS® (fentanyl iontophoretic transdermal system); FDA-required Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS)

Dear Director of Hospital Pharmacy:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of important safety information for IONSYS, a patient-controlled iontophoretic transdermal system providing patient controlled analgesia of fentanyl, an opioid agonist.

IONSYS has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the short-term management of acute postoperative pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic in the hospital and for which alternative treatments are inadequate. IONSYS contains fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance (CII) with abuse similar to other opioid analgesics. Patients should be titrated to an acceptable level of analgesia before initiating treatment with IONSYS.

The FDA has determined that a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) is necessary to ensure that the benefits of IONSYS outweigh the risk of respiratory depression resulting from accidental exposure. **Recently, your hospital was certified in the IONSYS REMS Program.**

SAFE USE OF IONSYS

- Hospitals must be certified in the IONSYS REMS Program to order, dispense, and administer IONSYS
- Nurses and pharmacists must review key risk messages for healthcare providers using the healthcare provider education and training listed below
- IONSYS should only be used by patients in a hospital setting, must be discontinued prior to leaving the hospital, and cannot be dispensed for use outside the hospital
- Nurses and pharmacists must review key risk messages with patients using the ***IONSYS Medication Guide.***
- Healthcare providers should avoid contact with the hydrogel

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

It is important that healthcare providers within certified hospitals are aware of the risks associated with IONSYS; and that they are properly trained on the setup and appropriate use of IONSYS. Tools for healthcare provider training and patient education include:

1. ***IONSYS REMS Safety Brochure: Guide for Nurses and Pharmacists:*** A guide for nurses and pharmacists who dispense, set up, and/or administer IONSYS. It includes clear information about the important risk messages associated with the IONSYS REMS Program required by the FDA. (It also includes the ***IONSYS Instructions for Use and Disposal*** and the ***IONSYS Medication Guide*** as attachments). A copy of the safety brochure is enclosed with this letter.
2. ***IONSYS REMS Knowledge Assessment:*** This document tests healthcare providers' knowledge of the appropriate set up and use of IONSYS, including important risk messages associated with the safe use of IONSYS. A copy is enclosed with this letter.
3. ***Prescribing Information:*** This document provides the prescribing information for IONSYS (fentanyl iontophoretic transdermal system), which includes the instructions for use and disposal. (It also includes the ***IONSYS Medication Guide*** as an attachment).
4. ***Dear Healthcare Provider Letters:*** Intended for certified hospital Heads of Pharmacy, Nursing, General Surgery, Anesthesia, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Orthopedics.

5. ***IONSYS REMS Hospital Enrollment Form:*** IONSYS can only be ordered, dispensed, and administered in hospitals which are certified in the IONSYS REMS Program. The hospital Authorized Representative ensures that the institution has documented processes in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of the IONSYS REMS including the requirement that IONSYS is not dispensed for use outside of the certified hospital.
6. ***IONSYS REMS Website:*** Tools for healthcare provider training and patient education, letters, the ***IONSYS REMS Hospital Enrollment Form***, and other important safety information are available on the IONSYS REMS Website (www.IONSYSREMS.com). Pharmacists and nurses may complete training and the ***IONSYS REMS Knowledge Assessment*** by accessing the *Healthcare Providers* tab on the IONSYS REMS website (www.IONSYSREMS.com).

IONSYS REMS HOSPITAL CERTIFICATION

Hospitals must be certified in the IONSYS REMS Program. To become certified, an Authorized Representative of the hospital (e.g., Pharmacy and Therapeutics Chair, Pharmacy Director, Medical Chief of Staff, or Head of Nursing Staff) must review the IONSYS REMS tools for healthcare provider training and patient education, successfully complete the ***IONSYS REMS Knowledge Assessment***, and submit the ***IONSYS REMS Hospital Enrollment Form***. In order to complete certification, Authorized Representative must train staff and develop processes, procedures, and/or other measures (e.g., order sets) to ensure IONSYS is not dispensed for use outside of the certified hospital.

Pharmacists and nurses may complete training and the ***IONSYS REMS Knowledge Assessment*** online by accessing the *Healthcare Providers* tab on the IONSYS REMS website (www.IONSYSREMS.com). Alternatively, the ***IONSYS REMS Knowledge Assessment*** may be downloaded, completed, and returned to the hospital Authorized Representative following a complete review of the training materials available on the IONSYS REMS website.

ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY

The Department of Pharmacy plays an important role in the enrollment and certification of the hospital, as they may be asked to take the lead in:

- **certifying** their hospital in the IONSYS REMS Program,
- **developing** processes, procedures, and/or other measures to ensure IONSYS is not dispensed for outpatient use or to a patient leaving the hospital,
- **training** hospital staff in the safe use of IONSYS which includes informing health care providers of the serious risk of respiratory depression resulting from accidental exposure and the need to counsel patients on the aforementioned risks,
- **serving** as a resource when IONSYS is implemented hospital-wide.

Healthcare providers and patients are encouraged to **report adverse events** in patients taking IONSYS to The Medicines Company via the IONSYS REMS Program at 1-877-488-6835 or the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088), or visit www.fda.gov/medwatch.

This letter is not a comprehensive description of the risks associated with the use of IONSYS. Refer to the Prescribing Information for a complete description of these risks.

If you have questions about the IONSYS REMS Program or how hospitals are certified in the IONSYS REMS Program, please visit www.IONSYSREMS.com for more information or call the toll-free number: 1-877-488-6835.

Sincerely,

The Medicines Company

Enclosures:
Prescribing Information
IONSYS REMS Safety Brochure: Guide for Nurses and Pharmacists
IONSYS REMS Knowledge Assessment