

SPINE SAFETY WARNING:

**Information for Healthcare Professionals:
Drug Safety Labeling Changes -
Actiq (fentanyl citrate) oral transmucosal**

According to MedWatch, FDA notified healthcare professionals that the BOXED WARNINGS text for Actiq has been updated. The following sentences have been added to the BOXED WARNING:

- The substitution of Actiq for any other fentanyl product may result in fatal overdose.
- When prescribing, do not convert patients on a mcg per mcg basis to Actiq from other fentanyl products.
- When dispensing, do not substitute an Actiq prescription for other fentanyl products. Substantial differences exist in the pharmacokinetic profile of Actiq compared to other fentanyl products that result in clinically important differences in the extent of absorption of fentanyl. As a result of these differences, the substitution of Actiq for any other fentanyl product may result in fatal overdose.

Read the complete summary of MedWatch safety labeling changes at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/ucm194045.htm>

The North American Spine Society is committed to quality patient care through promotion of patient safety and prevention of medical errors. NASS monitors a variety of government and other resources for patient safety related notices that may be useful to our members. Information from these notices is also archived on the NASS website at <http://www.spine.org/Pages/PracticePolicy/ClinicalCare/SpineSafetyAlerts/Default.aspx>. This information is provided as a service for information and education only.