

SPINE SAFETY WARNING:

**Information for Healthcare Professionals:  
Duragesic 25 mcg/hr (fentanyl transderman system) Pain Patches –  
Recall Because Some Patches May Have a Cut Edge**

According to MedWatch, PriCara and Sandoz Inc. announced a nationwide recall of all lots of 25 mcg/hr Duragesic Patches sold in the United States. The product is being recalled because the patches may have a cut along one side of the drug reservoir within the patch which may result in the possible release of fentanyl gel that may expose patients or caregivers directly to fentanyl gel on the skin. Fentanyl is a potent Schedule II opioid medication and exposure to the gel may lead to serious adverse events, including respiratory depression and possible overdose, that may be fatal. Patches with a cut edge should not be used. These recalled patches have expiration dates on or before December 2009 and are all manufactured by ALZA Corporation.

Read the complete 2008 MedWatch Safety Summary, including a link to the FDA Firm Press Release regarding this issue at:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2008/safety08.htm#Duragesic>

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 Web site at <http://www.spine.org/Pages/PracticePolicy/ClinicalCare/SpineSafetyAlerts/Default.aspx>. This information is provided as a service for information and education only.