

**Fentanyl transdermal patches (Durogesic<sup>®</sup>) (No. 24/02)**

**Janssen-Cilag Ltd**

**Summary of Recommendation**

10 January 2003

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and ADTCs on its use in NHS Scotland. The recommendation is summarised as follows:

**ADVICE**

Recommended for restricted use within NHS Scotland.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Transdermal fentanyl should be considered as a second-line alternative for patients with intractable pain due to non malignant conditions. It should be reserved for patients whose pain has initially been controlled by oral means, the pain being relatively stable. Its use should focus on such patients who have difficulty swallowing or have problems with opiate induced constipation.

NB: Transdermal patches are significantly more expensive than oral therapy.

**D H Lawson**  
**Chairman**