

# VALUE-BASED HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE 2024

22-23 AUGUST 2024



National Cancer  
Centre Singapore  
SingHealth

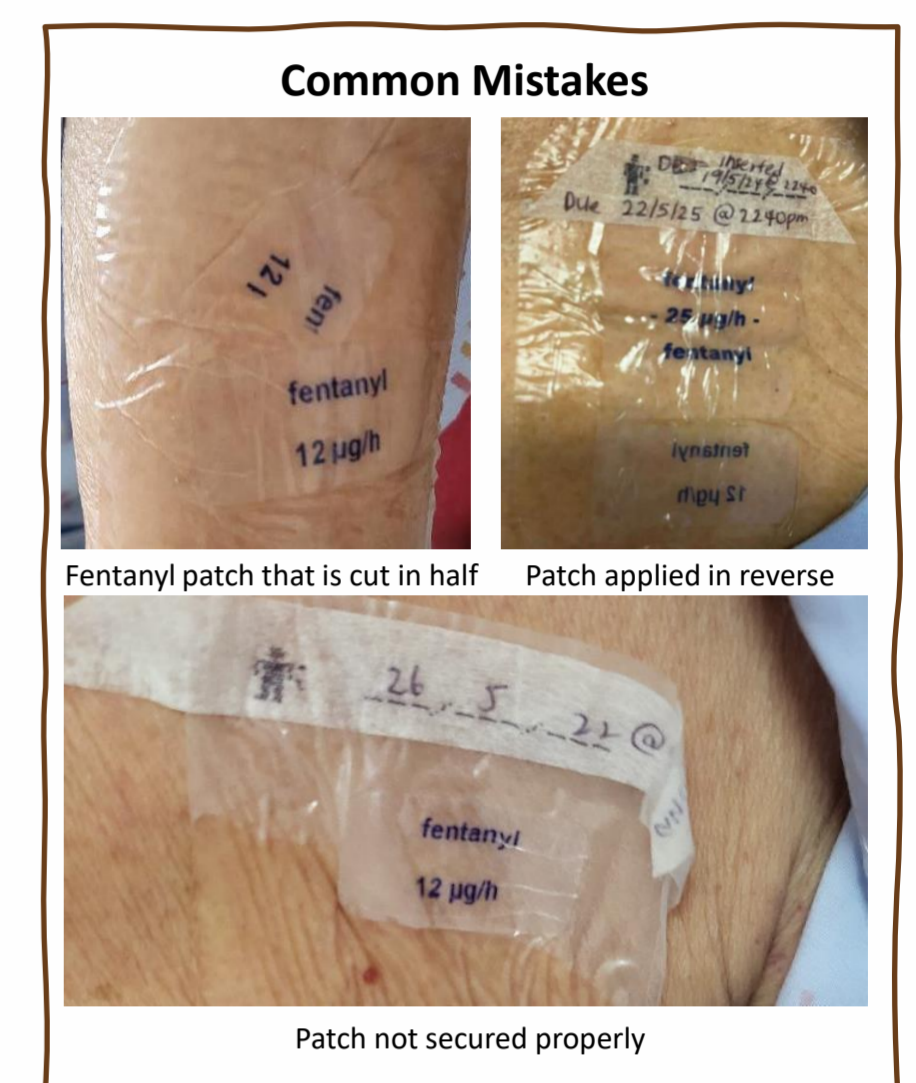
## Not just a sticker! Ensuring the correct application of Fentanyl patch in our patients.

Authors: Toy Wei Quan, Shirlyn Neo, Gillian Phua, Stella Goh Seow Ling, Keegan Lin, Wong Hwei May Victoria

### Background

Fentanyl is a strong opioid analgesic, often used in patients with a life limiting illness to control symptoms. When titrated appropriately against symptoms, it should not cause opioid toxicity. One possible way of administering Fentanyl is through a transdermal Fentanyl Patch (FP).

FP comes in different dosage strengths and sizes, the dose that is prescribed for a patient may require a combination of patches of different strengths and sizes. When an incorrect dose is applied, patient may develop opioid toxicity (respiratory depression, drowsiness and pin-point pupils) and in worst case scenario, death can occur. Incorrect dose can also lead to sub-optimal symptom control leading to a poor outcome and quality of life for patient.

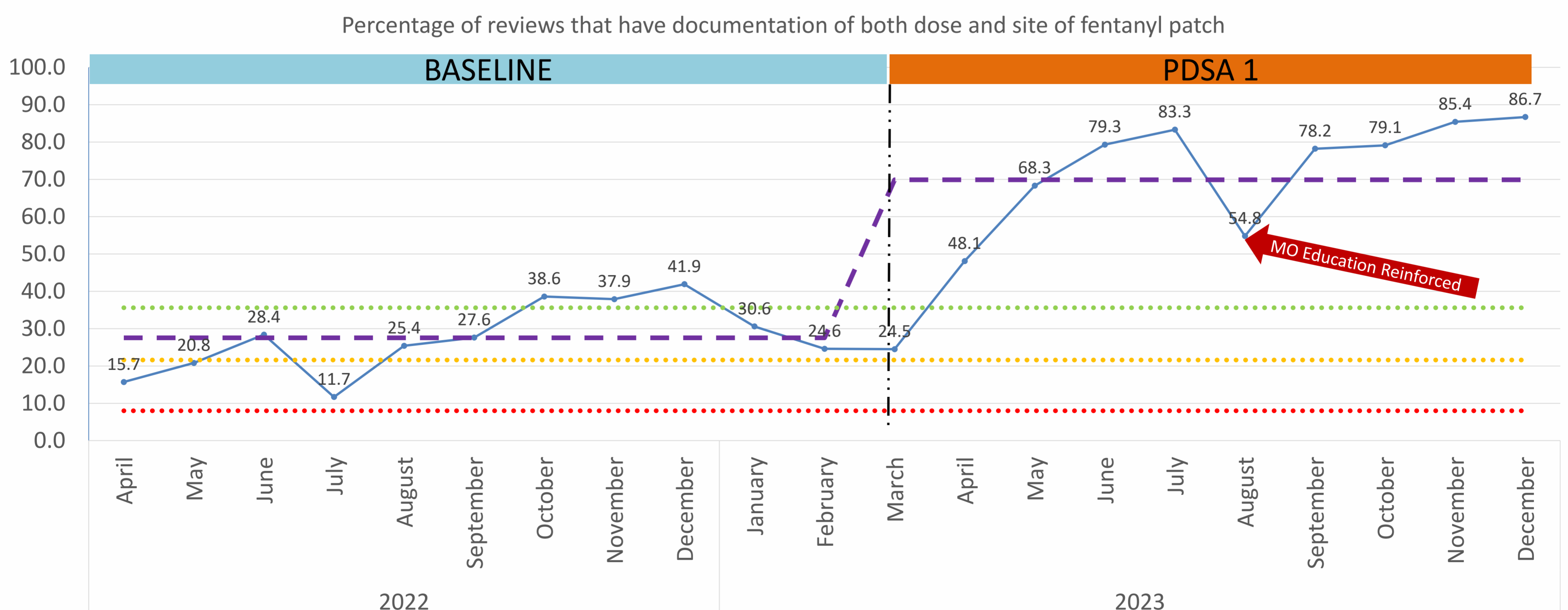


### Methods

A baseline audit of patients seen by the palliative care team on Wednesdays, from April-September 2022 was conducted. Their clinical notes were retrieved and patients with FP prescribed will have their notes audited. Indicators assessed are dose of FP applied on patient and the site of application. Using quality improvement methodology, knowledge and education was identified as the intervention for our 1st plan-do-study-assess (PDSA) cycle. We started with general education to the team, then monthly education to new junior doctors. This included examples of wrongly placed FP. Monthly audit of the notes was carried out to monitor the trend of improvement.

### Results

Our 6 months baseline audit showed that only 15.7% of our patients fulfilled the indicators. After our intervention in the 1st PDSA in March 2023, the results showed a steady increase next four months. There was a dip in August 2023 which prompted a quick review of possible reasons. Education was reinforced and the subsequent months showed an upward trend again.



### Conclusion

Ensuring that FP is delivered appropriately and effectively is important for all prescribers of the drug. Education and understanding risks and benefits of the project together with department support helps emphasized its importance and success of a QI project. Which will result in greater healthcare quality and patient safety.