



Documenting Waste of Controlled Substance Patches in the Omnicell® Automated Dispensing Cabinet

Transdermal patches containing controlled substances such as fentanyl should be disposed of properly anytime they are removed from a patient.

Whether the patch was applied to the patient for the full duration or not, you want to ensure that any residual medication left on the patch will not be transferred to another person.



The Omnicell® automated dispensing cabinet can be used to both remind nurses of waste and other procedures for patches and to electronically document the waste. To facilitate the process, Omnicell enabled customized waste reasons such as “Trace” to be set up in the OmniCenter® server as of software version 17.1.

Dispensing Alerts

Dispensing alerts are a useful way to remind nurses about special procedures required for transdermal patches. For example, upon removing a patch from the cabinet, an alert can remind the nurse to check the patient for an existing patch before applying a new one. Alerts can also be used to provide specific waste instructions.

Two Approaches for Documenting Waste

The Omnicell cabinet can be set up to record waste in two ways:

- 1) by number of hours the patch was in place, or
- 2) by indicating a zero waste amount.

The following pages provide a step-by-step guide to these two approaches.

Guide to Item Setup and Waste Documentation

The following examples are based on a **50 mcg/hour/72 hour fentanyl patch** that was discontinued after 24 hours. Note that these are examples only. Pharmacy and nursing should work together to develop medication processes that best meet the needs of the hospital and that work with the pharmacy information system.

Approach 1: Documenting Waste by Hours

Item Setup

- Description: Fentanyl 50 mcg
- Strength Amount: 72
- Strength Unit: Hour
- Select Reconcile Dose
- Select Multi-Day Admin so the item is not closed after 24 hours

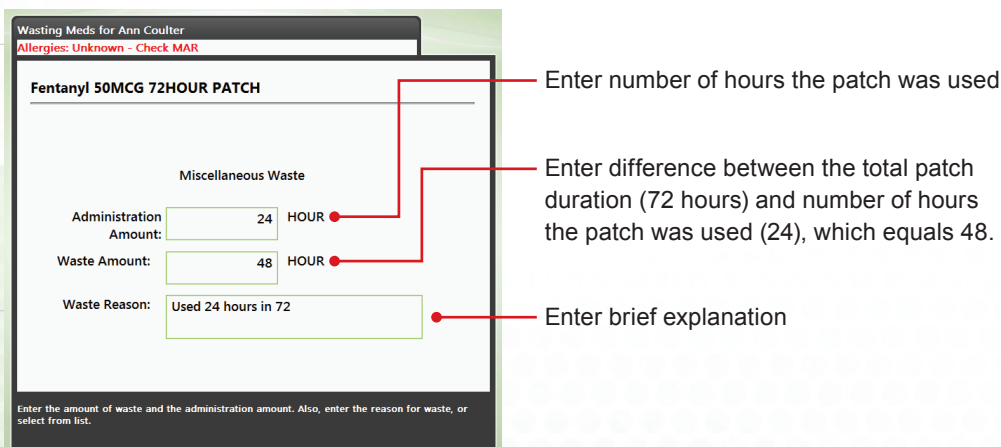
Dispensing Alert (Example)

Alert:

Administration Amount: Enter # of hours patch has been in use. **Waste Amount:** Subtract hours in use from 72. Enter result.

Document Waste

- Select Waste Meds
- Select the fentanyl patch
- Enter the information as shown below
- Have a witness verify the waste, and then record it



The screenshot shows a form titled "Wasting Meds for Ann Coulter" with a sub-header "Fentanyl 50MCG 72HOUR PATCH". The form is categorized as "Miscellaneous Waste" and contains the following fields:

- Administration Amount:** A text box containing "24" followed by a dropdown menu set to "HOUR". A red line points from this field to the annotation "Enter number of hours the patch was used".
- Waste Amount:** A text box containing "48" followed by a dropdown menu set to "HOUR". A red line points from this field to the annotation "Enter difference between the total patch duration (72 hours) and number of hours the patch was used (24), which equals 48."
- Waste Reason:** A text box containing "Used 24 hours in 72". A red line points from this field to the annotation "Enter brief explanation".

At the bottom of the form, there is a small instruction: "Enter the amount of waste and the administration amount. Also, enter the reason for waste, or select from list."



Approach 2: Documenting Zero Waste Amount

Item Setup

- Description: Fentanyl 50 mcg
- Strength Amount: 1
- Strength Unit: Patch
- Select Reconcile Dose
- Select Multi-Day Admin so the item is not closed after 24 hours

Dispensing Alert (Example)

Alert:

Enter 0 for waste amount. Enter "trace" for Waste Reason. Dispose per hospital policy.

Document Waste

- Select Waste Meds
- Select the fentanyl patch
- Enter the information as shown below
- Have a witness verify the waste, and then record it

Wasting Meds for Ann Coulter
Allergies: Unknown - Check MAR

Fentanyl 50MCG 1PATCH

Miscellaneous Waste

Administration Amount: PATCH

Waste Amount: PATCH

Waste Reason:

Enter the amount of waste and the administration amount. Also, enter the reason for waste, or select from list.

Enter 1 (indicating one patch)

Enter zero

Enter appropriate term such as "partial dose" or "trace"

Disposing of the Patch

Follow hospital policy for disposing of the patch. One option is to use the Omnicell external return bin after placing the patch in a baggie.