

# Drawing up Sublingual Fentanyl (Under the tongue use)

## PATIENT INFORMATION

## Palliative Care Service

1. Wash your hands
2. Prepare the syringe
  - Attach the blunt 'drawing up' filter needle to the syringe.
  - Check the filter needle is firmly attached
3. Open an ampoule :  
***For a glass ampoule***
  - Hold the ampoule upright with the pointed end at the top
  - Check all the fluid is removed from the top of the ampoule i.e. it is not in the pointed end. If not, gently flick the pointed end of the ampoule until the fluid runs back down into the ampoule
  - If there is a dot on the narrow part (neck) of the ampoule, make sure it is facing away from you
  - Hold the ampoule in one hand and use the other hand to snap (break) the neck of the ampoule away from you
  - Dispose of the pointed end in a hard walled container with a lid  
***For a plastic ampoule***
  - twist off the top
4. Draw up the medication from the ampoule with the syringe:
  - Put the blunt needle attached to syringe into the opened ampoule
  - Draw up the liquid by slowly pulling back on the plunger of the syringe
  - Once the fentanyl medicine is in the syringe, hold it with the needle pointing upright
  - Flick the syringe with your finger to get all the air bubbles to the top. Then slowly push the plunger up to empty any air from the syringe
  - Slowly push the plunger upwards until you have the correct dose as taught by your nurse or doctor
  - Remove the blunt filter needle before taking the fentanyl medicine
  - If the fentanyl medicine is not going to be used immediately, place a cap over the syringe tip and store in the fridge. They will last for up to 7 days when drawn up and stored in the fridge

**Put all open ampoules and waste into hard walled 'sharps' container**

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist**