TD Fentanyl Reversal
Adapted from Inappropriate Prescribing Patterns of Transdermal Fentanyl
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Opioid overdose: respiratory rate <12 breaths/min when patient is not asleep

Yes
Oxygenate with bag-valve mask
Administer naloxone; adjust dose to reverse respiratory depression while avoiding effects of opioid withdrawal

No
Methadone, fentanyl patch, or another long-acting opioid analgesic used?

Yes
Admit to intensive care unit

No
Observe for 4–6 hr after last naloxone dose

Yes
Observe for minimum of 8 hr

No
Patient awake and alert in the absence of oral or tactile stimuli?

No
Admit to intensive care unit

Yes
Consider discharge when patient is awake and alert with normal vital signs

Initiate continuous naloxone infusion or perform orotracheal intubation for recurrent respiratory depression

Continue with therapy until patient has normal respiratory effort and normal mental status
Observe for 4–6 hr after naloxone infusion stopped

References: