

## MDS Alert

### Patient Safety Tip: Resident Opioid Naïve? Beware This Drug

Prevent falls, oversedation.

Doing a medication history can pay off by identifying residents who haven't taken opioids before. This information can give you a heads up about who may not be a candidate for a fentanyl patch.

A lot of surgeons order the patches because they are easy to use, cautions **Albert Barber, PharmD**, with Golden Living in Fort Smith, Ark. "But we have seen people with no tolerance to opioids use the patches and fall or worse," he cautions.

Bottom line: "The fentanyl patches should be reserved for people who for some reason can't swallow pills but have been on other opioid medications, so you are transferring them to fentanyl," counsels Barber.