Intra-nasal (IN) Fentanyl

Why am I getting this handout?
Your child is in pain and needs treatment right away. We believe the Intra-nasal Fentanyl is the best way to take away severe pain in children. It is the **quickest and least painful** way without a needle stick.

What are the ways to give pain medicine?
- **Nose spray** - the quickest and most effective without a needle stick.
- **IV** - effective, but it is painful and scary to children.
- **By mouth** - takes too long to go into effect (up to 30 minutes).

What is Fentanyl?
Fentanyl is a strong pain medicine. It works in 5 to 10 minutes. This medicine is often used in IV form to reduce moderate to severe pain.

How is this medicine given?
We use a device called an atomizer, as shown below.

How soon will it take effect?
Within 5 to 10 minutes.

Are there any side effects?
No serious problems have been reported. When the medicine is given, your child may:
- Have mild irritation of the nose causing brief gagging or coughing
- Become sleepy
- Have watery eyes
- Have nasal congestion

How long will the effects of this medicine last?
The effects will last 30 to 60 minutes.

What should I do after the medicine is given?
You should not let your child walk or wander around; watch for falling.

Tell one of the ED staff if your child:
- Becomes sleepy
- Has breathing problems
- Is not acting right
- Still has pain 15 minutes after the medicine was given

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright ©5/2019. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7233