

Safety Reminder: Brand Prescribing of Buprenorphine Patches January 2018



Buprenorphine patches should be reserved for individuals suffering from stable chronic pain who cannot tolerate oral medication. They have been assigned an **AMBER** traffic light status and should only be prescribed following initiation or recommendation by the relevant specialist.

Two types of Buprenorphine patches are available which can be categorised as either lower strength or higher strength patches. There are a number of brands available for both types of patches. The local formulary options are listed below:

Prescribers are advised to prescribe all Buprenorphine patches by brand to reduce the risk of errors.

Brand name	Strength	Frequency of application
Butec® Sevodyne®	5,10,15,20mcg/hr 5,10,20 mcg/hr	WEEKLY
Bupeaze®	35,52.5, 70 mcg/hr	96 HOURLY

NOTE: Some brands of high strength Buprenorphine patches are available with a 72 hour frequency of application - however, these patches are non-formulary

Please note the difference in duration of action between the patches. *Butec®* and *Sevodyne®* require changing every seven days, whilst *Bupeaze®* is a 96 hour patch which will require changing twice weekly.

Prescribers should ensure that the dosage interval prescribed is appropriate for the product prescribed in order to prevent either unnecessary changing of patches or potentially leaving patients un-medicated.

Buprenorphine patches have been assigned an AMBER traffic light status and should be reserved for individuals suffering from stable chronic pain who cannot tolerate oral medication.

Buprenorphine patches are available as either high or low strength and there are a number of brands available

There is a difference in the duration of action between the patches and to reduce the risk of errors prescribers are advised to prescribe Buprenorphine patches by brand

**For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on
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