



29 December 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Butec[®] (buprenorphine) 15microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) (Schedule 3 controlled drug)

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: w/c 18 January 2021

Issue

1. Butec[®] (buprenorphine) 15microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) will be out of stock from mid-December until week commencing 18 January 2021.
2. Alternative brands of buprenorphine 15microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) remain available.
3. If alternative brands of buprenorphine 15microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) are not considered suitable, Butec[®] 5 and 10microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) remain available (see actions required below)
4. UKMi has provided clinical advice on switching to alternative products (see additional information section).

Advice and Actions

5. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, clinicians should:
 - review patients on Butec[®] 15microgram/hour patches (7-day) to assess ongoing need;
 - work with the community pharmacy of the patient's choice to understand the availability of other brands of buprenorphine 15microgram/hour patches (7-day) (see additional information section);
 - the recommended **first-line** option is to switch patients to a single alternative buprenorphine 15microgram/hour patch (7-day). This should be **prescribed by brand** in accordance with patient safety guidelines (see patient safety advice in the additional information section).
 - only if it is not appropriate to switch to *any of the three* alternative brands, then consider the use of both a Butec[®] 5 microgram/hour (7-day) and a Butec[®] 10microgram/hour patch (7-day) to deliver a total dose of 15microgram/hour as a **last line option**. Prescribers need to account for patient safety implications due to the **high risk of dosing errors** with multiple patches and **counsel** patients on the need to apply and remove two patches of different strengths (see patient safety advice section).

Additional Information

Patient Safety Advice:

6. Clinicians should be aware of the following: -

- When prescribing an alternative product:
 - Buprenorphine patches are also available as 3-day and 4-day patches. Care should be taken when selecting alternative products to ensure that a 7-day product is chosen (see Table 1 & 2 below).
 - Ensure the correct strength patch(es) are selected.
 - If prescribing two patches (buprenorphine 5 and 10microgram/hour patches) to provide the total dose of 15microgram/hour, the **same brand** should be selected for both patches.
 - Clinicians should consider whether patients have previously tolerated an alternative brand of buprenorphine patches, to help inform selection.

- When counselling patients:
 - Provide reassurance to patients about switching between alternative brand buprenorphine (7-day) patches. Switching between products of the same strength that are made by different manufacturers is not expected to result in a significant change in dose for the patient, however, they should be advised to report breakthrough pain or excessive drowsiness.
 - Ensure patients are counselled appropriately to ensure all old patches are removed before applying a new patch(es).
 - If patients are switching to two different strength patches, advise them to change and discard both patches at the same time to avoid confusion.
 - If patients are switching to two different strength patches, they should be advised to apply the new patches to different areas of the body. Clinicians should check individual SPC's for the time interval of when the new patch **should not** be applied to the same area.

7. Further guidance:

[SPS/UKMi: Buprenorphine patches- how can you minimise the risk of medication errors?](#)

Table 1: Summary of buprenorphine 15 microgram/hour (7-day) transdermal patches:

Brand Name	Stock availability
Butec [®]	Out of stock
BuTrans [®]	In stock*
Reletrans [®]	In stock*
Sevodyne [®]	In stock*

** This product remains available, however, can only support partial uplift in demand. Please liaise with your local pharmacy to ensure availability before prescribing*

8. Please refer to the BNF and SPCs for further information on all preparations:

- [Butec[®] 15micrograms/hour transdermal patches \(7-day\)](#)
- [BuTrans[®] 15micrograms/hour transdermal patches \(7-day\)](#)
- [Reletrans[®] 15micrograms/hour transdermal patches \(7-day\)](#)

- [Sevodyne® 15microgram/hour transdermal patches \(7-day\)](#)
- [Buprenorphine BNF](#)

Table 2: Alternative buprenorphine 5microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) and buprenorphine 10microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day):

Brand Name	Strength	Stock availability
Butec®	5micrograms/hour	In stock
	10micrograms/hour	In stock*
BuTrans®	5micrograms/hour	In stock*
	10micrograms/hour	In stock*
Panitaz®	5micrograms/hour	In stock*
	10micrograms/hour	In stock*
Sevodyne®	5micrograms/hour	In stock*
	10micrograms/hour	In stock*
Bunov®	5micrograms/hour	In stock*
	10micrograms/hour	In stock*

** This product remains available, however, can only support partial uplift in demand. Please liaise with your local pharmacy to ensure availability before prescribing.*

Enquiries

- Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).