



16 May 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Buprenorphine (Reletrans[®]) 5micrograms/hour and 15micrograms/hour transdermal patches

Priority: Level 2

Valid until: early July 2025

Issue

1. Buprenorphine (Reletrans[®]) 5micrograms/hour and 15micrograms/hour transdermal patches are out of stock until early July 2025.
2. Alternative brands of buprenorphine matrix patches (Bunov[®], Butec[®], BuTrans[®], Rebrikel[®] and Sevodyne[®]) remain available and can support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

3. Prescribers should not initiate people on Reletrans[®] 5micrograms/hour and 15micrograms/hour transdermal patches until the supply issues have resolved.
4. Where individuals have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply dates, prescribers should:
 - review and consider prescribing an alternative brand of a buprenorphine matrix 7-day formulation patch that is available including: Bunov[®], Butec[®], BuTrans[®], Rebrikel[®] and Sevodyne[®] (see Additional Information);
 - ensure the person stays on 7-day formulation patches where possible;
 - monitor and clinically assess their response and titrate dose if required;
 - ensure they are counselled on the change in brand and are not intolerant to any of the patch excipients (see Additional information).

Additional Information

5. Buprenorphine transdermal patches are licensed in adults for the treatment of non-malignant pain of moderate intensity when an opioid is necessary for obtaining adequate analgesia. They are available as matrix (drug embedded in an adhesive matrix with the release rate determined by the physical properties of the matrix) formulations.
6. Buprenorphine patches are available as 72-hourly, 96-hourly and 7-day formulations. The BNF contains information about the safe prescribing and dispensing of buprenorphine patches. Transdermal patches are available in strengths of 5, 10, 15 and 20 micrograms/hour as 7-day formulations. Prescribers and dispensers must ensure that the correct preparation is prescribed and dispensed. To avoid confusion and errors, it is recommended that all buprenorphine patches are prescribed by brand name.
7. When prescribing an alternative brand of buprenorphine patch, the summary of product characteristics (SmPC) should be consulted for cautions, contraindications and excipients, as these may vary between products.

Links to further information

[SmPC Reletrans[®] \(buprenorphine\) patches](#)

[SmPC Bunov[®] \(buprenorphine\) patches](#)

[SmPC Butec[®] \(buprenorphine\) patches](#)

[SmPC BuTrans[®] \(buprenorphine\) patches](#)

[SmPC Rebrikel[®] \(buprenorphine\) patches](#)

[SmPC Sevodyne[®] \(buprenorphine\) patches](#)

[BNF Buprenorphine](#)

[Buprenorphine patches | Right Decisions](#)

[PrescQIPP - Opioid Patches](#)

[SPS - Example medicines to prescribe by brand name in primary care](#)

[SPS- Using transdermal patches safely in healthcare settings](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with SPS have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#).

Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.

We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

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).