



25 June 2025

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

Buprenorphine (**Relevtec**<sup>®</sup>) 35micrograms/hour, 52.5micrograms/hour,  
70micrograms/hour transdermal patches

Buprenorphine (**Bupeaze**<sup>®</sup>) 52.5micrograms/hour transdermal patches

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: early October 2025**

### **Issue**

1. Buprenorphine (Relevtec<sup>®</sup>) 35micrograms/hour, 52.5micrograms/hour and 70micrograms/hour transdermal patches are out of stock until early August 2025.
2. Buprenorphine (Bupeaze<sup>®</sup>) 52.5micrograms/hour transdermal patches are out of stock until early October 2025.
3. Relevtec<sup>®</sup> and Bupeaze<sup>®</sup> are matrix formulation 4-day (96-hourly) transdermal patches.
4. Alternative buprenorphine matrix formulation 4-day (96-hourly) patches remain available (Bupeaze<sup>®</sup> [35micrograms/hour and 70micrograms/hour strengths remain available], Carlosafine<sup>®</sup>, and Transtec<sup>®</sup>) and can support increased demand.

### **Advice and Actions**

5. Prescribers should not initiate patients on Relevtec<sup>®</sup> 35micrograms/hour, 52.5micrograms/hour and 70micrograms/hour or Bupeaze<sup>®</sup> 52.5micrograms/hour transdermal patches until the supply issues have resolved.
6. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply dates, clinicians should:
  - review patients and consider prescribing an alternative brand of buprenorphine matrix formulation 4-day (96-hourly) transdermal patch that is available including: Bupeaze<sup>®</sup> (35micrograms/hour and 70micrograms/hour remain available), Carlosafine<sup>®</sup>, and Transtec<sup>®</sup> (see Additional information section);
  - ensure patients stay on the same strength patch;
  - ensure patients stay on 4-day (96-hourly) patches where possible;
  - monitor and clinically assess the patient's response and titrate dose if required; and
  - ensure patients are counselled on the change in brand and are not intolerant to any of the patch excipients (see Additional information section).

### **Additional Information**

#### **Clinical Information**

\*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

7. Buprenorphine 4-day (96-hourly) transdermal patches are licensed in adults for treatment of moderate to severe cancer pain and severe pain which does not respond to non-opioid analgesics. They are available as matrix formulations (drug embedded in an adhesive matrix with the release rate determined by the physical properties of the matrix).
8. Buprenorphine patches are available in lots of different strengths and durations of action (72-hourly, 96-hourly and 7-day). The BNF contains information about the safe prescribing and dispensing of buprenorphine patches. 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.
9. **CAUTION:** Prescribers should be aware that Hapoctasin® is a 3-day (72-hourly) formulation buprenorphine patch which is available in the same strengths as Relevtec® and Bupeaze® (e.g. 35micrograms/hour, 52.5micrograms/hour, 70micrograms/hour). This may increase the risk of product mis-selection when prescribing and dispensing. Care should be taken to switch patients from Relevtec® or Bupeaze® to an equivalent strength of an alternative brand and ensure it is a 4-day formulation patch.
10. 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 Relevtec patches](#)
- [SmPC Bupeaze patches](#)
- [SmPC Carlosafine patches](#)
- [SmPC Transtec patches](#)
- [BNF Buprenorphine](#)
- [Buprenorphine patches | Right Decisions](#)
- [SPS - Example medicines to prescribe by brand name in primary care](#)
- [SPS - Using transdermal patches safely in healthcare settings](#)

#### **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

11. 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.
12. 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**

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