Sevodyne® is now the preferred best value brand of buprenorphine WEEKLY transdermal patches in primary care

NHS
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Key messages

- **Prescribe by brand name**. There are several brands of buprenorphine transdermal patches. They are not all interchangeable and vary in relation to the frequency of application. Prescribing by brand name avoids confusion.
- The preferred best value brand of buprenorphine ***weekly*** patches in primary care has changed and is now **Sevodyne®**. The previous preferred brand was Butec®.
- Sevodyne® is equivalent to Butec® and is available in the same range of strengths:

  5, 10, 15 and 20 micrograms/hr
- New patients should be started on Sevodyne® if buprenorphine is appropriate*. Patches should be replaced every 7 days.
- Existing patients on Butec® can be switched to Sevodyne® at medication review where appropriate, with communication to the patient/their carer(s) about the change to minimise the risk of errors.
- The preferred brand of 4-day buprenorphine patches remains as Bupeaze®.
- If planning to switch several patients, please discuss with your local community pharmacy to help with stock management.

Link to Sevodyne® patient guide

Further Information

*Buprenorphine patches are considered to have a low place in therapy and are not recommended for first line use. When compared to other opiates, they are relatively weak and expensive.

Oral morphine is the first-line choice of strong opioid. Transdermal opioid patches should be reserved for patients for whom oral opioids are not suitable, such as patients with swallowing difficulties or poor adherence with oral analgesia. They are not suitable for acute or non-stable pain due to the need for slow titration of doses.

Brand prescribing is only recommended when there is a clinical reason to do so, or if there is a significant sustainable saving for the NHS, both of which apply to Sevodyne. We review brand recommendations regularly to ensure that they are still necessary and provide best value for the NHS.

See APC Opioids for Chronic Non- Cancer Pain In Adults Guideline for further guidance.

References

- Buprenorphine patches | Right Decisions
- Opioid patches. PrescQIPP Bulletin 364. March 2025 (Login required)

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