



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

To: All Community Pharmacists

8th May 2025

Dear colleague

Medicine Supply Notification: Buprenorphine (Reletrans®) 5micrograms/hour and
15micrograms/hour transdermal patches
Tier 2 – medium impact

[Medicines Supply Tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Summary

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

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Prescribers should not initiate patients on Reletrans® 5micrograms/hour and 15micrograms/hour transdermal patches until the supply issues have resolved.

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply dates, clinicians should:

- review patients 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 Supporting Information);
- ensure patients stay on 7-day formulation patches where possible;
- monitor and clinically assess the patient's response and titrate dose if required;
- ensure patients are counselled on the change in brand and are not intolerant to any of the patch excipients (see Supporting information).

Actions Required

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Buprenorphine transdermal patches are licensed in adults for 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.

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.

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](#)



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[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](#)