

From Michael Donaldson
Head of Dental Services SPPG



Strategic Planning and Performance Group
Dental Department, County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1QE

Date: 2 September 2025

Dear Colleague

Re: Management of Status Epilepticus in General Dental Practice

Dental practices are required to stock oromucosal midazolam pre-filled syringes in the practice emergency drug kit for the management of prolonged epileptic seizures. Practitioners need to ensure that there are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place for this controlled drug so that the risk of inappropriate usage is minimised.

Buccolam is currently the most commonly used format of oromucosal midazolam and since October 2024 it is licensed for use in adults, adolescents, children and infants aged 3 months and above (note 3-6 months in a hospital setting only). Licensed products have satisfactorily completed a rigorous assessment for quality, safety and efficacy. We are aware that other brands and generic versions of oromucosal midazolam in pre-filled syringes are available in appropriate doses including a licensed generic for certain age groups.

When deciding on the stock of oromucosal midazolam pre-filled syringes in the practice emergency drug kit, practitioners should take into consideration the following advice:

- It is important for dental practices to make a full risk-assessment before deciding to stock products and subsequently using it in an emergency situation.
- All, including temporary staff, who may use the products should be familiar with their use.
- It is important to check that any form of oromucosal midazolam is licensed for use in all age groups – to note some licensed generics are not licensed in adults.
- If an unlicensed product is used, the prescriber's responsibility and potential liability are increased. (See [MHRA guidance](#)).
- Oromucosal midazolam pre-filled syringes are available in several strengths to allow for exact dosing in different age groups. The product used should match the appropriate dose for the patient's age, with the full dose of the pre-filled oral syringe being administered. Part doses should not be administered.
- It should be available in sufficient quantity and dosage to meet the needs of the practice patient base and allow for at least two appropriate doses of oromucosal midazolam to be administered in any age group as per BNF guidance 'Medical emergencies in dental practice.'

Taking all the above factors into consideration, the SPPG guidance is that dental practices should stock Buccolam in their emergency drug kits as the preferred product for safety and licensing reasons.

Regardless of form of oromucosal midazolam, practices should ensure that a full risk assessment has been undertaken, that there are SOPs available appropriate to the product and that staff training is in place to support the use of the format stocked.

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to this process please contact

David Marshall, SPPG Dental Adviser at David.Marshall@hscni.net

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Donaldson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Donaldson

Head of Dental Services SPPG