

Medicine: buprenorphine prolonged-release solution for injection (brand name: Buvidal®) for the treatment of opioid dependence

Camurus AB

What is buprenorphine for?

Buprenorphine is a therapy for adults and adolescents (age 16 years and over) with a dependence on opioids such as heroin and morphine. Buprenorphine prolonged-release solution for injection is a long acting medicine which is used alongside medical, social and psychological support. It may enable patients to focus on recovery and return to normal routines without the need for daily visits to a pharmacy to receive oral treatment.

How does buprenorphine work?

Buprenorphine is a medicine that acts like an opioid but the effect is weaker than other opioids such as heroin or morphine. It is used to gradually reduce dependence whilst helping to decrease withdrawal symptoms. Buprenorphine prolonged-release solution for injection is injected under the patient's skin by a healthcare professional on a weekly or monthly basis.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted buprenorphine prolonged-release solution for injection as described above.

This acceptance is restricted to use in patients who are not suitable for treatment with methadone and where buprenorphine is considered appropriate.



Why has SMC said this?

SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland. When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration of the evidence, SMC was able to accept buprenorphine prolonged-release solution for injection as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that buprenorphine prolonged-release solution for injection for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx



More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with opioid dependence and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Faces & Voices of Recovery UK



<http://www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org>



0141 946 2710

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs



<http://www.sfad.org.uk>



08080 101011

Scottish Recovery Consortium



<http://www.scottishrecoveryconsortium.org>



0141 552 1355

The Scottish Drugs Forum Ltd



<http://www.sdf.org.uk>



0141 221 1175

You can find out more about buprenorphine (Buvidal) in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.

 <http://www.ema.europa.eu>

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