



# buprenorphine/naloxone 2mg/0.5mg and 8mg/2mg sublingual film (Suboxone®)

Indivior UK Limited

15 January 2021

The Scottish Medicines Consortium has completed its assessment of the above product and, following review by the SMC executive, advises NHS Boards and Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees (ADTCs) on its use in NHSScotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

**ADVICE:** following an abbreviated submission

**buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual film (Suboxone®)** is accepted for restricted use within NHSScotland.

**Indication under review:** substitution treatment for opioid drug dependence, within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment. The intention of the naloxone component is to deter intravenous misuse. Buprenorphine/naloxone is indicated in adults and adolescents over 15 years of age who have agreed to be treated for addiction.

**SMC restriction:** to those patients in whom methadone is not suitable and for whom the use of buprenorphine is considered appropriate.

Buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual film (Suboxone®) and buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual tablets (Suboxone®) deliver similar plasma concentrations of buprenorphine but are not bioequivalent. Please refer to the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics for further detail, including guidance on switching between formulations.

Generic buprenorphine sublingual tablets are available at lower cost.

This advice applies only in the context of an approved NHSScotland Patient Access Scheme (PAS) arrangement delivering the cost-effectiveness results upon which the decision was based, or a PAS/ list price that is equivalent or lower.

**Advice context:**

*No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.*

*This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at after evaluation of the evidence submitted by the company. It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.*

Patient access schemes: A patient access scheme is a scheme proposed by a pharmaceutical company in order to improve the cost-effectiveness of a medicine and enable patients to receive access to cost-effective innovative medicines. A Patient Access Scheme Assessment Group (PASAG), established under the auspices of NHS National Services Scotland reviews and advises NHSScotland on the feasibility of proposed schemes for implementation. The PASAG operates separately from SMC in order to maintain the integrity and independence of the assessment process of the SMC. When SMC accepts a medicine for use in NHSScotland on the basis of a patient access scheme that has been considered feasible by PASAG, a set of guidance notes on the operation of the scheme will be circulated to Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards prior to publication of SMC advice.

*This assessment is based on data submitted by the applicant company up to and including 18 December 2020.*

**Chairman**

**Scottish Medicines Consortium**