

Medicine: buprenorphine implant (brand name: Sixmo[®])

Accord Healthcare

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed buprenorphine implant for the treatment of opioid dependence in adults who are already stable while taking buprenorphine dissolved under the tongue (8mg/day or less). It is used as part of a package of support that includes medical, social and psychological treatment. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted buprenorphine implant for the treatment of opioid dependence as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of buprenorphine implant.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that buprenorphine implant for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is buprenorphine implant used for?

Buprenorphine implant is a treatment for adults with a dependence on opioids such as heroin and morphine. Buprenorphine implant is a long acting medicine which is used alongside medical, social and psychological support.

How does buprenorphine implant work?

Buprenorphine is a medicine that acts like an opioid but the effect is weaker than other opioids such as heroin or morphine. The implant is inserted into the arm via a minor surgical procedure and replaced after six months. It is used to gradually reduce dependence while helping to decrease withdrawal symptoms.

How does SMC make its decision?

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.

To do this SMC considers the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- 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.

When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not only those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of buprenorphine implant by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2372).

More information

The organisation 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



<https://www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org>



0141 946 2710

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



<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en>