

Oxycodone Prescribing Update



Oxypro® (oxycodone prolonged release)

Key Messages

- Preferred brand of oxycodone prolonged release has changed to Oxypro®.
- Shortec® remains the preferred brand of oxycodone immediate release capsules and solution.
- Oxycodone prolonged release preparations are to be prescribed by brand in Primary Care and on discharge from Secondary Care.
- From 1st February 2021 all prescribing of oxycodone prolonged release should be as Oxypro® tablets (prolonged-release).

Prescribing of opioids in cancer and non-cancer pain

Morphine is recommended as the first-line opioid of choice in both cancer and non-cancer pain.

Oxycodone use remains second-line restricted to patients in whom morphine is ineffective or not tolerated.

Oxycodone is twice as potent as morphine -

Oral Oxycodone 10mg
≈
Oral Morphine 20mg

New Formulary Recommendations for Oxycodone prolonged release

The Formulary Committee has ratified the recommendations that oxycodone should be prescribed by brand:

Oxypro® tablets (for prolonged release preparations)

We advocate that prescribers adopt these recommendations with minimal exclusions from 1st February 2021. Shortec® remains the preferred brand for oxycodone immediate release and oxycodone solution.

Why brand prescribing for oxycodone?

This recommendation is key to improving patient safety and cost effective prescribing. Significant numbers of administration errors in Scotland have occurred relating to confusion with the other available brands of oxycodone. NHS Fife recommends that oxycodone should be prescribed by brand to reduce risk and improve patient safety.

Why is Oxypro® being recommended?

Several branded generic oxycodone prolonged release preparations are now available with Oxypro® being more cost effective than the current preferred brand.

Is this change happening in the hospitals/hospice?

This is a full system recommendation for implementation across both primary and secondary care. In hospital oxycodone will continue to be prescribed generically. Hospital pharmacy will stock and issue the preferred brand. The implementation is being co-ordinated to include all care settings in NHS Fife.

Oxypro® (oxycodone prolonged release)

What support is being made available to General Practice to support the change?

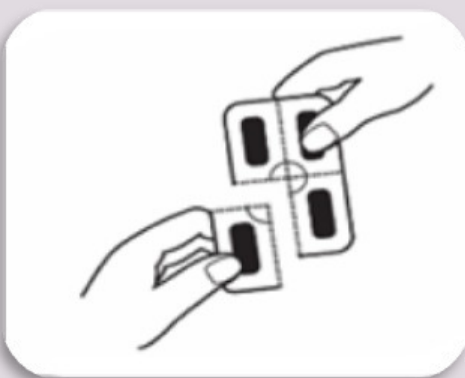
A member of your Pharmacy Team (most likely your Pharmacy Technician) will run a search to identify all patients prescribed oxycodone prolonged release on repeat and will review each patient's notes and switch them to the preferred brand oxycodone. They will communicate this switch to the patient via letter/phone call or by adding a message to the patient's record. Patients who are prescribed oxycodone prolonged release on an acute should be switched by the prescriber. As of 1st February 2021, an electronic message will be used on ScriptSwitch® to prompt the change from Longtec®, Oxycontin MR® or oxycodone MR.

What support is being made available to Community Pharmacy to support the change?

Community pharmacy provides a vital role in supporting patients with changes to their medicines. Our team will work closely with local community pharmacies on an individual patient-by-patient basis as appropriate. We have distributed patient support materials to community pharmacy to support any queries they receive. We also provided community pharmacies with advanced notification of the change in order that they would have stocks available to ensure continuity of supply for patients.

Oxypro® opening instructions

As this medicine is a controlled drug it comes in childproof blister packaging. Patients should follow these instructions when opening the blister:



Patient support

Further Oxypro® information and patient support including a video displaying how to open Oxypro® (oxycodone - controlled release tablets) can be found at www.oxypro-info.com.

Guidance documents

[NHS FIFE Joint Formulary](#)

[Local guidance on the management of chronic non malignant pain](#)

[Chronic Non Malignant Pain - Strong Opioid Prescribing Guideline and Educational Pack](#)

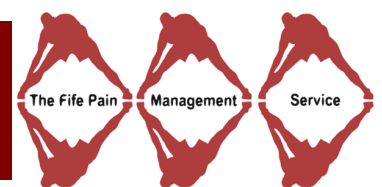
[SIGN136 Management of Chronic Pain](#)

[Local palliative care prescribing guidance](#)

Please refer to the documents for good practice prescribing points, in particular when converting between opioids and prescribing of opioids in non-cancer pain.

If you have any queries or comments please contact:

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