

Bulletin: 5th Dec 2023
No 15

Distribution-: All Community Pharmacies by e-mail

Bupropion (Zyban®) and Smoking Cessation Support

After recent unavailability, Bupropion (Zyban®) is once again available for ordering.

As a reminder, Zyban is a prescription only medication and cannot be considered like-for-like with varenicline (Champix®) (currently unavailable) due to the nature of Zyban's side-effect and interaction profile¹.

If considered appropriate, patients can be referred for assessment and prescribing (if deemed suitable) of Zyban by their GP. The below letter can be used for suitable patients **and can also be downloaded at** www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-boards/nhs-greater-glasgow-clyde/pharmacy-services/smoking-cessation-public-health-service/

However, when considering referral of patients to GPs for assessment, please note:

- The NICE guidelines [NG209]² indicate that when combined with behavioural support, Zyban is **less likely to result in successful quit** compared to varenicline, combination Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) or nicotine-containing electronic cigarettes.
- Varenicline is not currently available (manufacturer cannot supply)
- Electronic cigarettes are not available on prescription.
- Zyban is on the NHS GGC formulary total list **but** not on the preferred list.

Zyban is licenced to aid smoking cessation in combination with motivational support in nicotine-dependent patients¹. If patients being prescribed Zyban by their GPs choose to receive motivational support during their quit attempt from their pharmacy, their quit attempt **can be entered onto the Pharmacy Care Record (PCR)**. This will generate appropriate payment for delivery of support.

If you have any further queries please contact the Health Improvement Team at:
West House, Gartnavel Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH
T: 0141 201 4945 E: pharmacyhit@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

References

1. BNF: bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/bupropion-hydrochloride.html
2. NICE guidelines [NG209] www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng209

GP Name:

GP Practice address:

ZYBAN (BUPROPION) ASSESSMENT AND PRESCRIPTION REQUEST

PATIENT NAME:

CHI Number:

The above patient is requesting support to stop smoking, which we are providing, and has requested to use Bupropion/Zyban[®]. As you are aware this is a prescription only medication and due to the nature of its side-effect and interaction profile is not suitable for supply on PGD.

I would be grateful if you would assess your patient's suitability for this medication based on their medical history. Should your patient be suitable, we would ask that a prescription be issued.

Please Note:

The NICE guidelines [[NG209](#)] indicate that when combined with behavioural support, Zyban is less likely to result in successful quit compared to Varenicline; combination Nicotine Replacement Therapy or nicotine-containing E-Cigarettes. However, Varenicline is not currently available (Manufacturer cannot supply) and E-Cigarettes are not available on prescription.

Zyban is on the NHS GGC formulary total list **but** not on the preferred list.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Pharmacist's Name:

Pharmacy Address/Stamp