

Changes to oral Buprenorphine products prescribed within NHS Grampian as opioid replacement therapy.

Your nurse or prescriber will have made you aware about your brand of Buprenorphine medication changing. If you are currently prescribed Suboxone or Espranor, below is some further information regarding the differences between these and your new brand of Buprenorphine.

Suboxone

Suboxone is a combination product containing Buprenorphine and Naloxone. When taking as prescribed by dissolving the tablet under the tongue the naloxone has no effect in the body. The buprenorphine is the active ingredient. In Suboxone, the buprenorphine is the drug that blocks the effect of other opioids. This is the same in your new medication.

The way you take the medication will be the same as before- the tablets will be dissolved under the tongue. The new tablets may look different and taste slightly different.

Espranor

Espranor is a Buprenorphine only fast dissolving wafer tablet that is dissolved on top of the tongue. As Espranor dissolves very quickly, there is likely to be a change to your dose when switching to generic Buprenorphine. This will be clearly explained before the switch.

How you take the medication will change as your new Buprenorphine tablets will be dissolved under the tongue instead of on the tongue. The timeframe for the tablets to dissolve is longer than Espranor and may take between 3-10 minutes.

Further advice

If you experience any side effects when switching, then please speak to your nurse or prescriber within the drug and alcohol service.

This document was generated by the specialist pharmacist team working within the NHS Grampian Drug and Alcohol Service.

For any queries regarding information in this document please speak to your keyworker/prescriber.