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| NHS Grampian  Service Level Agreement  Buvidal Administration Service |

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| Author | Peter Maclean |
| Approved By | David Pfleger |

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| Revision Chronology | | |
| Version Number | Effective Date | Reason for Change |
| 1 | 2021 | New SLA |
| 2 | April 2023 | Updating SLA |
| 3 | April 2024 | Annual Update |
| 4 | April 2025 | Annual Update |

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| Summary of Changes from Previous Version | General minor changes to formatting, wording and grammatical alterations.  Update to financial remuneration. |
| Supersedes | Version 3 – April 2024 |
| Consultation Undertaken | Laura Karim  Pharmaceutical Care Services Improvement & Development Manager  Lucy Skea  Specialist Pharmacist in Substance & Medicines Use  Bethany Potter  Specialist Pharmacist Aberdeen City Drug and Alcohol Service |

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# Introduction

* 1. This Service Level Agreement (SLA) acts as a contract between NHS Grampian and the pharmacy contractor and commits the contractor to provide the services as defined by the Specialist Pharmacists in Substance Use and Pharmaceutical Care Services to patients identified as suitable for Buvidal® administration using a patient specific direction (PSD).

This agreement is for the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026, however, remains valid and must be adhered to as per the agreement whilst under review.

* 1. Buvidal® can only be administered by a healthcare professional and self-administration is not allowed or dispensing directly to the patient. NHS Grampian prescribing guidance for Buvidal® is available [here](https://www.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/services/medicines-management/policies/guide_buvidal.pdf).

The objective of this Buvidal® administration service is to provide a sustainable mechanism to optimise medicines administration and concordance by using pharmacists as the trained healthcare professional. This follows the pilot service assessing the practicalities of administering Buvidal® in community pharmacy following an approved patient pathway which includes monitoring parameters and sharing of relevant information with the specialist drug and alcohol team.

This agreement is for the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026, however, remains valid and must be adhered to as per the agreement whilst under review.

# Background to service

* 1. The introduction of Buvidal® depot injection, an alternative, long-acting formulation of buprenorphine with weekly and monthly formulations, has a number of patient benefits including
  + Improves compliance. Less likelihood of missed doses affecting treatment due to long-acting formulation and flexibility in dose administration (Can be administered 2 days before or after scheduled doses for weekly and 7 days for monthly dosage formulations).
  + Depot formulations reduce the need for daily attendance at Community Pharmacy and the frequency the patient takes their medication. This facilitates attendance at education or work, reduces psychological reliance on daily dosing of medication, reduces stigma when consuming medication onsite and reduces contact with others that may lead to temptation/pressure to divert medication.
  + Removes safe storage concerns for opioid substitute (OST) medication where children are present
  + Reduces risk of overdose as a result of dose optimisation and the higher affinity of the partial agonist buprenorphine at opioid receptors
  + Community pharmacists are experienced in dispensing, supervising, assessing, monitoring and supporting patients during OST treatment
  + Community pharmacy is an ideal venue for patients to have pharmaceutical treatment administered, patients may otherwise have had to travel significant distance to reach a geographic location of specialist substance use service (SUS) clinics with a suitable clinical base to administer.
  + This NHS Grampian community pharmacy pharmacist Buvidal® administration service provides flexibility to patients by delivering the service in the patient’s local community. Most community pharmacies operate Monday to Saturday providing greater opportunity/appointment options for administering Buvidal® within the dosing window along with delivering top up doses.
  1. A comprehensive community pharmacy substance misuse service has been offered from the majority of NHS Grampian community pharmacies for several years. Buvidal® administration is a logical addition to this service. Existing staff experience in assessing patients prior to administration of opioid substitute treatment and delivery of wider services such as flu vaccination means pharmacy staff have an existing skillset which can be easily adapted to deliver this service.

# Service aims

* 1. To increase patient access to, and concordance with, Buvidal® treatment in NHS Grampian through community pharmacy administration.

* 1. To utilise the expertise of community pharmacy staff already trained and experienced in delivering OST and administering vaccinations
  2. To expand the current community pharmacy substance use independent prescribing clinics to include Buvidal® prescribing and administration with support from specialist drug and alcohol teams.

# Service outline and standard

* 1. Buvidal® administration is currently an invitation only service.
  2. The contractor delivering the service must be signed up to the SLA. The pharmacy must have sufficient pharmacists trained to cover the needs of this service
  3. Each pharmacist must have read the SLA, completed required training (see [section 6](#_Training_requirements)) and be signed off as competent to deliver this pilot service.
  4. The patient’s eligibility for treatment with Buvidal® will be assessed in accordance with national and local guidance by local drug and alcohol services. The patient’s prescribing service will gain patient consent for administration by community pharmacy along with the necessary information sharing between service and pharmacy. Specialist SUS prescribers will perform the initial assessment and determine the suitability of a patient to receive Buvidal®. Treatment will be initiated in SUS services before patient is transferred to community pharmacy for ongoing Buvidal® administration. The SUS service will provide a prescription along with a named “patient specific direction” (PSD) for each individual who has consented to this treatment. Approved community pharmacist independent prescribers undertaking prescribing for Buvidal® will present potential patients at their local SUS hub meeting to agree initiation of Buvidal®.
  5. The community pharmacist will be responsible for the ongoing provision of Buvidal® specific advice (both written and verbal) to the patient.
  6. The community pharmacy pharmacists will use the pharmacy administration record document to record each episode of care electronically.
  7. The community pharmacist will notify each patient’s prescriber once they have completed an administration by secure nhs.scot email. Patients must provide the required consent for the sharing of the information between the prescribing service, pharmacy and GP to be eligible for this service.
  8. The health professional prescribing Buvidal® is responsible for informing the patient’s GP that they are being prescribed Buvidal and ask that it is added to their record as prescribed “out of practice” medication. The pharmacist should check once treatment initiated that this is visible on the patient’s Emergency Care Summary (ECS) record.

The community pharmacy will be responsible for ensuring the service provided is client-centred, non-judgemental, and confidential.

* 1. The community pharmacy contractor will ensure that Buvidal® injections are stored in line with national and NHS Grampian policies for the safe storage and handling of controlled drugs.
  2. Community pharmacies providing this Buvidal® administration service must also ensure that they have:
* Adequate staff provision to ensure dispensary functions and pharmaceutical services are not compromised due to the service.
* Appropriate administrative support to manage appointments and assist patients. This should include an appointment reminder system.
  1. Pharmacist staff taking part in this service should contact their indemnity insurance provider to ensure Buvidal® administration is covered in their policy. NHS Grampian may request proof from staff involved in this service that they have appropriate indemnity cover.

# Pharmacy premises criteria

Community pharmacies providing the Buvidal® administration service must have a private, enclosed clinical area suitable for administration of injections within the community pharmacy, external to dispensary area.

Key requirements of this clinical area are:

* Clinical wash hand basin.
* Washable floors (not carpet).
* Clinical workbench sufficient to prepare injections and layout ancillaries.
* Chair(s).
* Wheelchair/disabled access.
* Minimum floor area as specified by local criteria for clinical treatment room (sufficient to lay patient down in the event of an adverse event). Ideally 15 square meters.

In addition, a CD cabinet suitable for storage of Buvidal® injections and an area for safe storage of confidential information must also be available within the pharmacy.

# Training requirements

* 1. NHS Grampian will provide periodic bespoke training sessions for staff involved in delivery of this service.
  2. The community pharmacy contractor will ensure that all staff, including locums, are competent in injection technique e.g. have completed immunisation or Buvidal® specific training programmes as identified by NHS Grampian in accordance with agreed local standards.
  3. New staff will have a minimum of 3 administrations supervised until competence is assured. This may be an experienced member of the drug and alcohol team or a pharmacist who is themselves experienced in administering Buvidal®.
  4. Pharmacists should read and understand Buvidal® administration guidance website page including the administration video (registration with website required). [www.buvidal.co.uk/buvidal-administration/](http://www.buvidal.co.uk/buvidal-administration/)
  5. Have read and understood NHS Grampian’s: [Guidance For Prescribing And Administering Buprenorphine Subcutaneous Injection In Grampian](https://www.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/services/medicines-management/policies/guide_buvidal.pdf) (nhsgrampian.org)
  6. Annual anaphylaxis and basic life support training updates (available on TURAS) should be up to date. All healthcare staff involved in administration of Buvidal® must be able to identify and respond to anaphylaxis should it occur.
  7. The community pharmacy contractor has a duty to ensure that pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service are aware of and operate within local guidelines.
  8. Pharmacy staff and collection point staff are aware of Make Every Opportunity Count (MEOC) and should be confident in raising and discussing health topics with patients. <http://www.hphsgrampian.scot.nhs.uk/>

# Monitoring & evaluation

* 1. It is a requirement of the service that appropriate records are kept and maintained by the community pharmacy contractor to enable verification of service provision and to provide information to NHS Grampian for internal and external audit and evaluation purposes.

A standard operating procedure(s) should be in place in the pharmacy to cover all aspects of service provision.

* 1. Pharmacies should obtain regular patient feedback as recommended by

# Claims and payment

* 1. Pharmacies can claim locum fees to cover time required to set up the service and for each pharmacist to attend shadowing at an NHS clinic. Invoices should be sent to [gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot) and should include confirmation of date(s) and clinic attended. Contact gram.smspharmacists@nhs.scot to facilitate set up of shadowing.
  2. The cost of the Buvidal® injection will be covered by prescription.
  3. Patients receiving Buvidal® administration through this service will be eligible for a £45 fee per patient for administration, plus an additional £10 fee per extra injection within the same calendar month for the same patient.
  4. Patient activity submissions will be requested monthly along with the claim workbook to monitor patient activity in the pharmacies.

# References

1. 9.1. NHS Grampian (2024). Guidance For Prescribing And Administering Buprenorphine Subcutaneous Injection In Grampian for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence. Available from: [www.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/services/medicines-management/policies/guide\_buvidal.pdf](http://www.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/services/medicines-management/policies/guide_buvidal.pdf)
2. 9.2. Camrus (2024). Buvidal [internet]. Available from: <https://www.buvidal.co.uk/>
3. 9.3. Electronic Medicines Compendium. 2020. Summary of Medicines Product Characteristics [internet]. Available from: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9706/smpc>

# Background Information

* 1. RPSGB Medicines, Ethnics, and Practice (current edition).
  2. NHS Grampian Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy for personal information.
  3. NHS Grampian Community Pharmacy Buvidal PSD.
  4. NHS Grampian [Buvidal® Prescribing Guidance](http://www.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/services/medicines-management/policies/guide_buvidal.pdf).

# Contract agreement

NHS Grampian reserves the right to cancel this SLA and withdraw this service following an agreed period of notice. Please complete the declaration below:

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| Declaration and agreement to administer Buvidal® to identified  eligible patients from community pharmacy | | |
| * I confirm that this pharmacy is ready to provide the Buvidal® administration service. * The pharmacy premises meets the required standards outlined in section 5   The pharmacists working in this pharmacy are competent to deliver the service as they have completed the required training:   * Training in the administration of subcutaneous injections * Completed Buvidal® specific [training](file:///V:\Corporate%20Services\Medical%20Directorate\FHS-secure\1%20PCCT\Pharmacy\Service%20Level%20Agreements%20%5bFull%20Contractor%20Pack%5d\2021-22\FINAL%20SLA's%20for%202021_2022\Buvidal%20Administration%20Pilot%20Service) * Annual BLS * Anaphylaxis TURAS eLearning (supply certificates for all pharmacists) * Have read and understood SLA, NHS guidance and supporting information * Provide proof of indemnity to administer Buvidal® injections   At least two additional staff members working in this pharmacy have completed:   * Anaphylaxis eLearning (supply staff certificates / evidence) | | |
| Name of person completing the form | | Names of competent pharmacists (block capitals) |
| Trading name of pharmacy | | |
| Contractor Code | Pharmacy Address | |
| Date of declaration | | |

Please sign this document, retain for your records, and submit a copy by email to [gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot)