NHS Grampian
Service Level Agreement

Buvidal Administration Service

SLA Reference	SLA_Buvidal Administration Service
Version	5
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Approved By	David Pfleger Director of Pharmacy

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
5	April 2026	Annual Update

Summary of Changes from Previous Version	General minor changes to formatting, wording and grammatical alterations. **<u>Section 4</u>** Emphasis on key pharmacist role relating to service undertaking **<u>Section 6</u>** Removal of mandatory requirement to undertake Basic Life Support training.

	Section 8 Change to wording. Claims for preliminary set up only. **Section 11** Addition of mandatory competency form to be retained within pharmacy. **Appendix (See SLA pack)** Addition of Appendix 1, 2 & 3 for assisting service direction. Patient Specific Direction, Standard Operating Procedure & Administration Record.
Supersedes	**Version 5 – April 2026**
Consultation Undertaken	**Laura Karim** Pharmaceutical Care Services Improvement & Development Manager **Lucy Skea** Lead Specialist Pharmacist in Substance & Medicines Use **Bethany Potter** Specialist Pharmacist Aberdeen City Drug and Alcohol Service

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1 Introduction

1.1 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 2026 – 31st March 2028, however, remains valid and must be adhered to as per the agreement whilst under review.

1.2 Buvidal® can only be administered by a healthcare professional and self-administration is not allowed. Buvidal should only be issued to health care professionals and should never be dispensed directly to patients. NHS Grampian prescribing guidance for Buvidal® is available here.

1.3 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.

2 Background to service

2.1 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

- 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 or vulnerable adults are present

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 as:

- It will allow another OST option to be offered from community pharmacy.

- 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 Buvidal®.

- Being able to access Buvidal® treatment from a local community pharmacy increases patient choice as to where they receive their medication from and provides greater flexibility due to increased pharmacy opening hours.

- 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.

2.2 Pharmacy staff have experience in assessing patients prior to administration of OST and delivery of wider services means pharmacy staff have an existing skillset which can be easily adapted to deliver this service.

3 Service aims

3.1 To increase patient access to, and concordance with, Buvidal® treatment in NHS Grampian through community pharmacy administration. This supports the Medication Assisted Treatment standards by providing choice and access in a patients local community (Medication Assisted Treatment Standards)

3.2 To utilise the expertise of community pharmacy staff already trained and experienced in delivering OST

4 Service outline and standard

4.1 Buvidal® administration is currently an invitation only service.

4.2 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, this includes cover for periods of leave.

4.3 The Pharmacy contractor should have a named “Key Pharmacist” who will take overall responsibility for the Buvidal® service, ensuring SOPS are maintained and all staff administering Buvidal® are appropriately trained.

4.4 The Key Pharmacist will ensure the service runs effectively and ensure provisions are in place to cover for any staff absence or staff training as per 4.2.

4.5 They will also ensure that the support and reference materials provided for information, remain current, are retained in the pharmacy and are readily available to all pharmacy staff, particularly locum pharmacists and dispensing staff. Currently available from:

- Buvidal | Buprenorphine - Prolonged release solution for injection

4.6 Each pharmacist must have read the SLA, completed required training (see section 6) and be competent to deliver this service. Each pharmacist should sign the individual declaration in section 11.

4.7 Specialist SUS prescribers will perform the initial assessment and determine the suitability of a patient to receive Buvidal®. Buvidal® treatment will be initiated and titrated in SUS services and patients will be on a monthly dose before being transferred to community pharmacy for ongoing Buvidal® administration.

4.8 The patient's prescribing service will gain patient consent for administration of Buvidal® by community pharmacy along with the necessary information sharing between service and pharmacy. The signed consent form (See appendix 1 will be sent to the pharmacy by the SUS service and a copy should be retained in the pharmacy.

4.9 The SUS service will provide the community pharmacy with a prescription along with a named "patient specific direction" (PSD) for each individual who has consented to this treatment. Each prescription will be for one Buvidal® injection, and will be sent to the community pharmacy at least 7 days before planned due date. The PSD will be valid for up to one year (see Appendix 2)

4.10 The community pharmacist will be responsible for the ongoing provision of Buvidal® specific advice (both written and verbal) to the patient.

4.11 The community pharmacists will ensure that they have a valid prescription and PSD prior to administration of each Buvidal® injection.

4.12 The community pharmacist will ensure that is it appropriate to administer the dose of Buvidal® and feedback any concerns/issues to the prescriber.

4.13 The community pharmacists will administer Buvidal® in line with the PSD and use the pharmacy administration record document to record each episode of administration electronically (See Appendix 3).

4.14 The community pharmacist will notify each patient's SUS prescriber once they have completed each administration by secure nhs.scot email.

4.15 The SUS prescriber for 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 Community pharmacist, with patient consent should check once treatment is initiated that Buvidal is visible on the patient's Emergency Care Summary (ECS) record.

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

4.17 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.

4.18 If the patient fails to present on the agreed administration day, administration cannot be rescheduled or it has not been possible to make contact with the patient, the community pharmacy would be expected to escalate to the relevant SUS who are prescribing for the patient (See appendix Section D of appendix 1 for contact details).

4.19 Where a patient falls out with the administration window ensure that the prescriber has reviewed the patient and that the prescription and PSD remains valid.

4.20 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.

4.21 Pharmacists 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.

4.22 Staff providing administration of Buvidal® must be suitably trained in the provision of naloxone and have completed naloxone training

5 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.
- Suitable disposal mechanisms for sharps as per local guidelines

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.

6 Training requirements

6.1 NHS Grampian will provide periodic bespoke training sessions for staff involved in delivery of this service.

6.2 The community pharmacy contractor will ensure that all staff, including locums where agreed, are competent in injection technique and have undertaken Buvidal® specific administration training:

- 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®. To arrange shadowing in the specialist service Buvidal® clinics, or to obtain dummy Buvidal® kits please contact gram.smspharmacists@nhs.scot.

- Pharmacists should read and understand Buvidal® administration guidance website page including the administration video Buvidal | Buprenorphine - Prolonged release solution for injection

6.3 Have read and understood NHS Grampian's: Guidance For Prescribing And Administering Buprenorphine Subcutaneous Injection In Grampian (nhsgrampian.org)

6.4 Annual anaphylaxis updates should be undertaken (available on TURAS) All healthcare staff involved in administration of Buvidal® must be able to identify and respond to anaphylaxis should it occur.

6.5 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.

6.6 The Contractor must ensure that staff are appropriately trained and made aware of the risks associated with the handling and disposal of clinical waste and that correct procedures are used to minimise those risks. A needle stick injury procedure must be in place.

6.7 Pharmacists should have completed the naloxone training for the Community Pharmacy emergency naloxone holding service available from NES TURAS Learn (search for 'Community Pharmacy Emergency Naloxone Holding Service')

6.8 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.

7 Monitoring & evaluation

7.1 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.

7.2 Staff should retain training records and sign the training declaration in section 11

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

8 Claims and payment

8.1 Pharmacies may claim locum fees to cover the time required for the preliminary set up of the service. Pharmacists can attend shadowing at an NHS clinic. Invoices should be sent to 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.

8.2 The cost of the Buvidal® injection will be covered by prescription.

8.3 Patients receiving Buvidal® administration through this service will be eligible for a £46.35 fee per patient for administration, plus an additional £10.40 fee per extra injection within the same calendar month for the same patient.

8.4 Patient activity submissions will be requested monthly along with the claim workbook to monitor patient activity in the pharmacies.

9 References

I. 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

II. 9.2. Camrus (2024). Buvidal [internet]. Available from: https://www.buvidal.co.uk/

III. 9.3. Electronic Medicines Compendium. 2020. Summary of Medicines Product Characteristics [internet]. Available from: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9706/smpc

IV. Add SDF evaluation **Evaluation-of-Exploring-Long-Acting-Injectable-Buprenorphine-Provision-Across-Scotland-August-2025 (2).pdf**

10 Background Information

10.1 RPSGB Medicines, Ethnics, and Practice (current edition).

10.2 NHS Grampian Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy for personal information.

10.3 NHS Grampian Community Pharmacy Buvidal PSD.

10.4 NHS Grampian Buvidal® Prescribing Guidance.

10.5 Buvidal | Buprenorphine - Prolonged release solution for injection (for training rescources, education and patient information leaflets)

11 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:

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 Buvidal® as per section 6 of the SLA ☐ Undertaken a period of shadowing with an experienced Buvidal® administrator ☐ Anaphylaxis TURAS eLearning (supply certificates for all pharmacists) ☐ Have read and understood SLA, SOP and NHS guidance and supporting information ☐ Provide proof of indemnity to administer Buvidal® injections ☐ The process for managing a needle stick injury ☐ On Naloxone administration and supply 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 Key Pharmacist(block capitals)**
Trading name of pharmacy	
Contractor Code	**Pharmacy Address**
Date of declaration	

Please sign this document, retain for your records. NHS Grampian hold the right to ask for this information during auditing exercises.

Declaration and agreement to administer Buvidal® to identified eligible patients from community pharmacy- Individual pharmacist competency form

I will deliver this service from a pharmacy signed up to the SLA

I have discussed my competency with the key pharmacist and agreed that I will provide Buvidal® administration

I (the pharmacist) am competent to deliver the service as I have completed the required training:

- ☐ Training in the administration of Buvidal® as per section 6 of the SLA
- ☐ Undertaken a period of shadowing with an experienced Buvidal® administrator
- ☐ Anaphylaxis TURAS eLearning (supply certificates for all pharmacists)
- ☐ Have read and understood SLA, SOP and NHS guidance and supporting information
- ☐ Provide proof of indemnity to administer Buvidal® injections
- ☐ The process for managing a needle stick injury
- ☐ On Naloxone administration and supply

At least two additional staff members working in this pharmacy have completed:

- ☐ Anaphylaxis eLearning (certificates retained in pharmacy)

Name of pharmacist	
Trading name of pharmacy	
Contractor Code	**Pharmacy Address**
Date of declaration	

Please sign this document, retain for your records. NHS Grampian hold the right to ask for this information during auditing exercises.