



16 January 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®) 2mg/500microgram and 8mg/2mg sublingual tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: product has been discontinued

Issue

1. Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®) 2mg/500microgram and 8mg/2mg sublingual tablets were discontinued on 5th January 2026.
2. Various strengths (0.7mg/0.18mg, 1.4mg/0.36mg, 5.7mg/1.4mg, 8.6mg/2.1mg, and 11.4mg/2.9mg) of **short-dated** buprenorphine/naloxone (Zubsolv®) sublingual tablets are available but future supply to the UK is to be confirmed.
3. Branded and generic buprenorphine sublingual tablets (2mg and 8mg) and buprenorphine oral lyophilisate 2mg and 8mg (Espranor®) remain available.

Advice and Actions

4. Clinicians should:
 - not initiate new patients on Suboxone® sublingual tablets
 - review patients currently on Suboxone® sublingual tablets and consider appropriateness of prescribing buprenorphine sublingual tablets or buprenorphine oral lyophilisate (Espranor®) ensuring they:
 - select appropriate dose regimen;
 - titrate accordingly;
 - check patients are not intolerant to any of the excipients and are counselled on the switch and dosing regimen; and
 - monitor patients for symptoms of overdose/withdrawal.
5. If there are concerns about the individual not taking medication as prescribed or diversion, consider the use of supervised dispensing or long-acting buprenorphine injections (Buvidal® prolonged-release solution for injection).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notice-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

6. Suboxone® and Zubsolv® sublingual tablets are substitution treatments for opioid drug dependence, licensed for use within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment, in adults and adolescents over 15 years of age, who have agreed to be treated for addiction. The naloxone component is included to deter dose diversion for parenteral administration, as it precipitates withdrawal if the preparation is injected, but it has little effect when the preparation is taken sublingually. Treatment is under the supervision of a physician experienced in the management of opiate dependence/addiction.
7. Buprenorphine sublingual tablets and oral lyophilisate (Espranor®) are also licensed as substitution treatment for opioid drug dependence in adults and adolescents aged 15 years or older. The route of administration for Espranor® is on the tongue, not under it.
8. Zubsolv® and Espranor® are not directly interchangeable with other buprenorphine products as different buprenorphine products have different bioavailability.
9. The SPCs for Suboxone® and Zubsolv® note that when used sublingually, buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine have similar clinical effects, however, before switching between buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine, the prescriber and patient should agree to the change, and the patient should be monitored in case a need to readjust the dose occurs.

Links to further information

- [SmPC – Suboxone® sublingual tablets](#)
- [SmPC- Zubsolv® sublingual tablets](#)
- [SmPC – Buprenorphine sublingual tablets](#)
- [SmPC- Espranor® oral lyophilisate](#)
- [SmPC- Buvidal® injection](#)
- [BNF – Buprenorphine with naloxone](#)
- [BNF – Buprenorphine](#)
- [BNF- Substance dependence](#)
- [Drug misuse and dependence – UK guidelines on clinical management](#)
- [Medicine choices in opioid substitution treatment - GOV.UK](#)
- [Medicine Supply Tool – Subutex sublingual tablets](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

10. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
11. Prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland are encouraged to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

12. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).