



Buprenorphine patch prescribing update



North of England
Commissioning Support

Partners in improving local health

Date: June 2019

Buprenorphine patches currently have a **GREEN PLUS** RAG rating for prescribing across the North of Tyne and North Cumbria, see link below:

<http://northoftyneandgatesheadformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=4&SubSectionRef=04.07.02&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=1509#1509>

With the note:

- **Buprenorphine patches (Preferred brand - Butec®) are approved for use in palliative care when fentanyl 12 microgram/hr transdermal patches exceed the patient's analgesic requirements.**
- **To be initiated by a specialist**

Indicated for the treatment of severe pain unresponsive to non-opioid analgesics and moderate to severe chronic cancer pain.

Transdermal buprenorphine patches are not suitable for acute pain or in those patients whose analgesic requirements are changing rapidly because the long time to steady state prevents rapid titration of the dose.

Current prescribing data shows that there is currently prescribing of Buprenorphine across North Cumbria be this historic or new prescribing.

This update is to aid prescribers during any review of these patients new or current prescribed Buprenorphine and should the need for the drug to be initiated or continue, below are the products currently available for the prescriber to choose from.

For patient safety it is advised that Buprenorphine is prescribed by Brand name.

Current products available and list prices

Dose & pack size	Reletrans list price	Butec list price	Bu Trans list price
5mcg/hr 4 patches	£7.92	£7.92	£17.60
10mcg/hr 4 patches	£14.20	£14.20	£31.55
15mcg/hr 4 patches	£22.12	£22.12	£49.15
20mcg/hr 4 patches	£25.86	£25.86	£57.46

Should current patients need reviewed then the reviewing clinician may wish to use the North Cumbria Opioid prescribing resources. <https://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/opioidresources/>

Produced by: Phillip Utting NECS Medicines Optimisation team for North Cumbria CCG
Contact details: phillip.utting@cumbria.necsu.nhs.uk

Have you seen the NECS Medicines Optimisation website?

<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/>



Buprenorphine patch prescribing update



North of England
Commissioning Support

Partners in improving local health

Date: June 2019

References:

<https://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/buprenorphine.html#prescribingAndDispensingInformations>

<https://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/download/north-of-tyne-and-north-cumbria-brand-name-prescribing-guidance/>

Produced by: Phillip Utting NECS Medicines Optimisation team for North Cumbria CCG
Contact details: phillip.utting@cumbria.necsu.nhs.uk

Have you seen the NECS Medicines Optimisation website?

<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/>