

### High strength buprenorphine patches – dosage instructions

In December 2016 the Medicines Optimisation Team produced a prescribing tip outlining safety considerations that are needed when prescribing high strength buprenorphine patches. Despite this, errors have continued to occur when prescribing these patches.

High strength BRAND	Frequency of patch application
Hapoctasin	Apply a new patch every 72 hours (3 days)
Bupeaze OR Buplast OR Relevtec OR Transtec	Apply a new patch every 96 hours (4 days). SPCs suggest bi-weekly dosing e.g. change Tues morning and Friday evening

It is worth noting that there is currently **no** high strength patch (35mcg, 52.5mcg, 70mcg) that has been formulated to be applied every 7 days

- When prescribed by **brand** EMIS will automatically default to the correct dosage instructions for the brand chosen (see below).

**MOUSE, Mickey (Mr)**

Name: Transtec 70micrograms/hour transdermal patches (Napp Pharmaceuticals Ltd) ▾

Dosage: ▾

Quantity:  patch      Duration:  Day(s)

*(Note: A dropdown menu is visible showing "A Apply One Patch Every Four Days As Directed. Remove Old Patch Before Appli...")*

- When prescribed **generically** EMIS will not prompt the prescriber to select the correct dosage instructions as there are two options (apply a new patch every 72 hours (3 days) OR apply a new patch every 96 hours (4 days)) (see below).

**MOUSE, Mickey (Mr)**

Name: Buprenorphine 70micrograms/hour transdermal patches ▾

Dosage: ▾

Quantity:  patch      Duration:  Day(s)

The prescriber is therefore required to manually input the dosage instructions. As a result of this a number of incidents have occurred across our CCGs. **In particular, prescribers have added incorrect dosage instructions advising patients to change their patch every 7 days.** The potential outcome of this is breakthrough pain for the patient with associated avoidable escalating doses.

#### Advice for prescribers

- Brand name prescribing of buprenorphine patches is recommended to reduce the risk of confusion and error in dispensing and administration<sup>1</sup>
- Consider reviewing all patients currently prescribed high strength buprenorphine patches to ensure dosage instructions are correct

1. [https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/UKMi\\_QA\\_Brand-name\\_prescribing\\_Update\\_Nov2017.pdf](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/UKMi_QA_Brand-name_prescribing_Update_Nov2017.pdf)

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302

**Prescribing tip for actioning by practice team**