



Buprenorphine patches for severe pain



This leaflet is for parents and carers about how to use this medicine in children. Our information sometimes differs from that provided by the manufacturers, because their information is usually aimed at adults. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

Name of medicine

Buprenorphine patch

Brand names: BuTrans, Bunov, Bupeaze, Bupramyl, Butec, Carlosafine, Hapoctasin, Panitaz, Rebrikel, Reletrans, Reveltec, Sevodyne, Transtec

Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?

Buprenorphine belongs to a group of medicines called opioids that are used to treat severe pain. This may be after an injury or operation (surgery) or during an illness. Buprenorphine patches will help keep your child's pain under control. The buprenorphine is released slowly from the patch and passes through the skin into the body, providing continuous pain relief.

What is this medicine available as?

Buprenorphine patches come in different sizes containing different amounts of buprenorphine that is released over either 7 days or 3–4 days.

- Patches that last 7 days release 5, 10, 15 or 20 micrograms per hour
- Patches that last 3–4 days release 35, 52.5 or 70 micrograms per hour

When should I use the patches?

Depending on the type of patch your child has been given, you will need to change the patch either once or twice a week. It is helpful to do this on the same day or days each week, and at about the same time of day, to help you remember. Keep a note of when you apply a new patch.

How much should I give?

Your doctor will work out the amount of medicine (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

Your doctor may start your child on a low-dose patch and then increase the dose slowly if more is needed.



It is important that you follow your doctor's instructions about how much to give.



Do not use more than one patch at a time, unless your doctor has told you to. Make sure you peel off the old one before sticking on a new one.

How should I give it?

Choose an area of skin that is dry, not hairy, red or sore, and that has not been exposed to radiotherapy. The upper

arm or body are good places; the back may be better for young children so they cannot peel off the patch.

- Avoid using soap and any creams, oils or ointments on the skin before applying a patch.
- Peel off the old patch. Fold it in half, sticky sides together, before throwing it away.
- Each patch is in a sealed pouch. When you are ready to apply the patch, cut or tear open the pouch along the dotted line. Be careful not to damage the patch inside.
- The sticky side of the patch is protected by foil. Try not to touch the sticky side of the patch.
- You should stick the new patch to a different area of skin from the previous one.
- Peel off half the foil and stick the patch to the skin, then remove the rest of the foil and press the patch in place for at least 30 seconds – the warmth from your hand helps the patch to stick.
- Do not rub the patch. Do not apply anything tight over it. If the patch lifts at the edges, you can use medical tape to stick it down.
- Wash your hands after handling the patches.
- Do not allow patches to come into contact with direct heat such as head pads or hot-water bottles, as the medicine will be released too quickly.
- Do not cut or tear patches. Do not use damaged patches.

When should the medicine start to work?

- It may take up to a day for the first patch to work and up to 3 days for maximum effect. Your doctor will give your child other medicine for pain relief if needed during this time.
- If you are not sure the patch is working, contact your doctor but leave the patch in place in the meantime. Do not apply extra patches, as you may cause harm.

What if my child is sick (vomits)?

You do not need to worry if your child is sick, as the medicine will still work.

What if I forget to give it?

If you forget to replace a patch, do it as soon as you remember. Make a note of the new day and apply the next patch after either 7 days or 3–4 days, depending on which type of patch you have.

What if I think I have given too much?



It can be dangerous to give your child too much buprenorphine, although this is unlikely if you use the patches as instructed.



If there is any possibility that your child may have had too much buprenorphine (patches and medicine), remove the patch and take your child to hospital or telephone for an ambulance straight away. Take the medicine and packaging with you, so that the doctor can see what has been taken.

Are there any possible side-effects?

We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they cause effects that we don't want (side-effects).

Side-effects you must do something about



If your child has difficulty breathing or seems very sleepy, they may have had too much buprenorphine. Remove the patch and take your child to hospital or telephone for an ambulance straight away.

Other side-effects you need to know about

- Your child may feel sick or be sick (vomit) during the first few days of using buprenorphine patches. Your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help with this.
- Your child may get constipated (have difficulty doing a poo). Your doctor may suggest that your child also takes laxatives to help them poo. You can help by giving your child plenty to drink.
- Your child may feel weak or have low energy, feel sleepy, have headaches or feel dizzy. They should still respond to voices and instructions, however.
- The patches may make the skin red and feel itchy. Some children get a whole-body rash. Contact your doctor if you are worried.

Your child may sometimes get other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your doctor. You can report any suspected side-effects to a UK safety scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

- More information on side-effects can be found in a [leaflet](#) on our website.

Can other medicines be given at the same time as buprenorphine?

- Buprenorphine should not be taken with some common medicines that you get on prescription. It is important to tell your doctor and pharmacist that your child is using buprenorphine patches.
- You can give your child medicines that contain ibuprofen or paracetamol, unless your doctor has told you not to.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal and complementary medicines.

Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?

- If your child gets a fever (high temperature), the buprenorphine may be released too quickly from the patch. Ask your doctor for a different form of pain relief while your child has a fever.

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- Do not stop using buprenorphine patches suddenly (unless you think your child may have had too much), as your child may get withdrawal symptoms. If you or your child want to stop using the patches, discuss this with your doctor but continue to use the patches in the meantime.
- You may have heard that some people get addicted to opioid medicines. The risk is low if you use the patches as you have been told to. Talk to your doctor if you are concerned. You can read more about this on [the MHRA website](#).



Only use these patches for your child. Never use them for anyone else, even if they are in pain, as this could be dangerous.

- If you think someone else may have used a buprenorphine patch by accident, remove the patch. If it has been in contact with the skin for some time, seek advice.
- The patches are waterproof, so your child can have a shower or bath but they should not stay in a hot bath for too long.
- Fold used patches in half, sticky sides together, and put in a bin where young children cannot get them.

General advice about medicines

- Make sure that you always have enough patches. Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you will run out.
- Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the 'best before' or 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

Where should I keep this medicine?

- Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Who to contact for more information

Your doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about buprenorphine and other medicines used to treat pain.

You can also get useful information from:

England: NHS 111 Tel 111 nhs.uk

Scotland: NHS 24 Tel 111 nhs24.com

Wales: NHS 111 Tel 111 111.wales.nhs.uk

Northern Ireland: NI Direct nidirect.gov.uk

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk