



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2026/002

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

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 15/01/2026

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone<sup>®</sup>) 2mg/500microgram and 8mg/2mg sublingual tablets were discontinued on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- 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<sup>®</sup>) sublingual tablets are available but future supply to the UK is to be confirmed.
- Branded and generic buprenorphine sublingual tablets (2mg and 8mg) and buprenorphine oral lyophilisate 2mg and 8mg (Espranor<sup>®</sup>) remain available.

## Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- not initiate new patients on Suboxone<sup>®</sup> sublingual tablets
- review patients currently on Suboxone<sup>®</sup> sublingual tablets and consider appropriateness of prescribing buprenorphine sublingual tablets or buprenorphine oral lyophilisate (Espranor<sup>®</sup>) 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.

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<sup>®</sup> prolonged-release solution for injection).

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Suboxone<sup>®</sup> and Zubsolv<sup>®</sup> 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

\*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

little effect when the preparation is taken sublingually. Treatment is under the supervision of a physician experienced in the management of opiate dependence/addiction.

Buprenorphine sublingual tablets and oral lyophilisate (Espranor<sup>®</sup>) 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<sup>®</sup> is on the tongue, not under it.

Zubsolv<sup>®</sup> and Espranor<sup>®</sup> are not directly interchangeable with other buprenorphine products as different buprenorphine products have different bioavailability.

The SPCs for Suboxone<sup>®</sup> and Zubsolv<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> sublingual tablets](#)

[SmPC- Zubsolv<sup>®</sup> sublingual tablets](#)

[SmPC – Buprenorphine sublingual tablets](#)

[SmPC- Espranor<sup>®</sup> oral lyophilisate](#)

[SmPC- Buvidal<sup>®</sup> 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](#)

## Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).