

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for switching preparations: generic buprenorphine transdermal 7-day patch or Butec to branded generic Sevodyne (or Bunov if supply issues)

Please note that this document has not been updated for the 2026-27 incentive scheme. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for medicines optimisation switches/reviews, along with other supporting materials, were originally developed for use by Medicines Optimisation Team staff within NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Other organisations or groups choosing to use this resource does so at their own risk and NHS SY ICB accepts no liability for its use or application.

Action(s) / Medication to be Switched	• Prescribe branded generic Sevodyne/ Bunov transdermal patches for all new patients who require treatment with generic buprenorphine transdermal 7 -day patch. • Review all patients currently prescribed generic buprenorphine (or any other generic 7-day brand other than Sevodyne/ Bunov) and switch, where appropriate, to branded generic Sevodyne/ Bunov It is recommended that any switches/changes to medication are only made by appropriately qualified, registered and authorised HCPs.
Rationale	Generic prescribing is recognised as a sign of good practice in terms of consistency and safety, as well as generally being more cost effective. It allows any suitable generic (or equivalent branded product) to be dispensed, reduces the number of items to be held as stock in the pharmacy and can potentially reduce the delays in supplying medicines to the patient. Sometimes, the cost difference between a branded generic (BG) and generic (as listed in the DT) is so significant that in terms of cost-effectiveness, the BG is the most appropriate option to prescribe.

Price comparison <i>Cost correct as per Drug Tariff and NHS List price (May 2024)</i>			7 day patches		Please note: Higher strength patches are excluded from this SOP as they are 4-day preparations and not
	Drug/Appliance (Brand / Branded generic)	Strength	DT Cost	Butech	
	Buprenorphine	5mcg/hr	£17.60 for 4	£7.92 for 4	
		10mcg/hr	£31.55 for 4	£14.20 for 4	
		15mcg/hr	£49.15 for 4	£22.12 for 4	
		20mcg/hr	£57.46 for 4	£25.86 for 4	
			Sevodyne	Bunov	
	branded generic	5mcg/hr	£5.53 for 4	£5.54 for 4	
		10mcg/hr	£9.93 for 4	£9.94 for 4	
		15mcg/hr	£15.48 for 4	n/a	
		20mcg/hr	£18.09 for 4	£18.10 for 4	
	interchangeable.				
Exclusions	- Patients identified as previously having difficulty accepting changes to medication regimes. (known pts to Practice) - Patients previously tried the switch with a documented reason for changing back - Patients with a documented allergy / intolerance to any excipients - Patients on the end of life/palliative care register should be switched at the discretion of their care providing GP.				
Cautions	Refer to the current BNF and SPC				

New Medication Added	Prescribe at same dose/frequency/quantity as previous preparation. Double-check prescribed quantity matches dose and script duration.
Emis/S1 consultation entry	Read Code consultation entry – Drug changed to cost effective alternative (XaJKo) (SNOMED: 408374000) Consultation entry to make - • generic buprenorphine switched to branded generic Sevodyne/ Bunov • Patient repeat template updated • Patient informed of change via SMS / letter
Follow Up	None
Communication to Patients	Preferred method of communication with patients to be agreed with individual practice. • A sample patient letter is attached on Appendix 1. • Suggested wording to include in SMS included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 - Example letter only

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Patient Name, Address.

Date

Dear Title Surname,

Change to Your Prescription for buprenorphine transdermal 7-day patch.

Along with other GP Practices across Rotherham we are reviewing patients who are currently prescribed **buprenorphine transdermal patches**. This is to ensure our patients continue to receive quality treatment but also use NHS resources in the most cost-effective manner.

You are currently prescribed **a buprenorphine transdermal 7-day patch**.

This treatment has been reviewed and updated to the **branded generic Sevodyne/ Bunov**.

Please finish your current supply of **buprenorphine transdermal 7-day patches** before starting your new **branded generic Sevodyne/ Bunov** medication.

On behalf of the Doctors

Appendix 2 - Suggested text wording

Change to Your Prescription for buprenorphine transdermal 7-day patches.

All GP Practices across Rotherham are reviewing patients who are currently prescribed **buprenorphine transdermal patches**. This is to ensure our patients continue to receive quality treatment but also use NHS resources in the most cost-effective manner. Your **buprenorphine transdermal 7-day patch** has been updated to the brand name **Sevodyne/ Bunov** to save the NHS funds to use elsewhere.