

**Prescribing Policy Statement: Buprenorphine oral lyophilisate (Espranor®)
Do not prescribe.**

Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not support the prescribing of buprenorphine oral lyophilisate tablets (Espranor®) as substitution treatment for opioid addiction.

Key Points

- Espranor® is a freeze dried wafer (oral lyophilisate) which contains buprenorphine (2mg or 8mg).
- Espranor® results in similar clinical outcomes and adverse effects as sublingual buprenorphine (Subutex®) but may provide benefits in reducing diversion and timing of supervised doses due to its faster dissolution rate.
- It is not interchangeable with other buprenorphine sublingual formulations at the same dose (“like for like” switch) as the **bioavailability is 25-30% higher**.
- The initial dose of Espranor® is 2mg compared to 0.8mg – 4mg for other oral buprenorphine preparations and the maximum single daily dose for Espranor® is 18mg NOT 24mg or 32mg as with Suboxone® and Subutex®
- The administration of Espranor® is different to other buprenorphine products as it is placed on the tongue (not under it). Median time for disintegration is 2 minutes. Swallowing should be avoided for 2 minutes and food or liquids must not be consumed for 5 minutes after dissolution.

Recommendations

- **DO NOT prescribe Espranor®.**
- **Prescribe buprenorphine sublingual tablets generically and not by specific brand**

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid-Essex CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the Mid-Essex CCG formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification).

See Mid-Essex CCG website – Medicines optimisation page for all prescribing guidance.
<http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/medicines-optimisation>

Title	Policy Statement - Buprenorphine oral lyophilisate (Espranor®)
Document reference	BuprenorphineEspranorPOL201706V1.0FINAL
Reference	Espranor (buprenorphine oral lyophilisate) 2mg and 8mg Considerations for opioid substitution therapy use in community settings and secure environments. Specialist Pharmacy Service. February 2017 https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Espranor-v6.2-final.pdf
Author	Medicines Management Team, Mid Essex CCG
Approved by	Medicines Management Committee
Date approved	June 2017
Next review date	June 2022

Previous version	Key Changes
-	New guidance