South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee
Formulary recommendation

Reference	**101**
Intervention:	**Buvidal® (buprenorphine) prolonged-release solution for injection (weekly or monthly injection) for the treatment of opioid dependence (Buprenorphine is an opioid medicine used to treat opioid dependence)**
Date of Decision	**April 2019, updated June 2021 to extend time limited approval to June 2022, updated November 2023 following report on outcomes data - time limit to the approval removed**
Date of Issue:	**May 2019, re-issued July 2021, re-issued January 2024**
Recommendation:	**RED – suitable for administration by community addiction services only**
Further Information	• Buprenorphine prolonged release injection (Buvidal®) is approved for use as an option in South East London (SEL) in line with its licensed indication for the treatment of opioid dependence within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment. Treatment is intended for use in adults and adolescents aged 16 years or over. This approval covers both the weekly and monthly preparations of Buvidal®. • Committee members acknowledged the complexities in addiction service provision as these services are commissioned through local authorities, therefore service providers vary across SEL. • The local authorities in SEL who commission addiction services from the formulary applicant have provided their support for the application. • Buvidal is approved as a treatment option • Administration of Buvidal® is **restricted to healthcare professionals**. Take-home use or self-administration of the product by patients is **not allowed**. • As buprenorphine is a Schedule 3 (CD No Register) controlled drug, the service must comply with regulations for ordering, storing and supplying controlled drugs. • **November 2023:** In May 2019 the Committee approved the inclusion of Buvidal® in the formulary for a time limited period to enable use to be piloted in selected services. The Committee requested a report summarising outcomes with the use of Buvidal® in this setting following the original formulary approval. Progress with the pilots was delayed due to external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic. A report outlining the total number of patients initiated on treatment at two sites, the rationale for choosing Buvidal®, and outcomes & safety data was presented in November 2023. The outcome data indicated that the majority of service users benefitted substantially from Buvidal® use, with broad societal value included. A small number of patients switched from Buvidal® back to sublingual buprenorphine, mainly due to patient preference.
Shared Care/ Transfer of care required:	N/A
Cost Impact for agreed patient group	• The applicant confirmed that the cost of prescribing and administration is included in their contracts with local authority commissioners. • Including pharmacy activity fees, the cost of Buvidal® is £230 per month for weekly treatment, and £241 per month for 4 weekly injections. The cost of sublingual buprenorphine ranges between £190 and £353 per month, and Buvidal® appears cheaper for sublingual doses >12 mg daily. Therefore, the use of Buvidal® is likely to be cost neutral. This does not include savings from reduced service activity.

Usage Monitoring & Impact Assessment	**Addiction services:** • Monitor and audit usage and outcomes from use of Buvidal® (against criteria in this recommendation) and report back upon request of the Committee.
	SEL Borough Medicines teams: • Monitor ePACT 2 data • Monitor exception reports from GPs if inappropriate transfer of prescribing to/administration in primary care is requested.
Evidence reviewed	**References (from evidence evaluation December 2018)** 1. Opioid dependence: buprenorphine prolonged-release injection (Buvidal®). NICE Evidence Summary 19 (Feb 2019). 2. Methadone and buprenorphine for the management of opioid dependence. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Technology Appraisal 114 (January 2007) 3. Buvidal® (buprenorphine prolonged release injection) Summary of Product Characteristics. Available online at: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9706/smpc (accessed 28/03/2019) 4. Lofwall M, Walsh S, Nunes E et al. Weekly and Monthly Subcutaneous Buprenorphine Depot Formulations vs Daily Sublingual Buprenorphine With Naloxone for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder. A Randomised Clinical Trial. JAMA Internal Medicine 2018 178 (6) p764-773

NOTES:

a) SEL IMOC recommendations and minutes are available publicly via the website.

b) This SEL IMOC recommendation has been made on the cost effectiveness, patient outcome and safety data available at the time. The recommendation will be subject to review if new data becomes available, costs are higher than expected or new NICE guidelines or technology appraisals are issued.

c) **Not to be used for commercial or marketing purposes. Strictly for use within the NHS.**