

Spectrum Drug and Alcohol Service Hertfordshire

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Dear Colleagues,

Prescription change from generic buprenorphine to Espranor® (buprenorphine oral lyophilisate) 2mg and 8mg

In view of recent buprenorphine supply and price fluctuations it has been decided to review service users that are prescribed buprenorphine tablets and where appropriate change them to Espranor. This is the most practical approach to ensure stability of treatment for service users and to minimise inconvenience to pharmacies.

The switch to Espranor commenced in December 2018 following discussions between prescribers, service users and community pharmacists. Prescribers at cgl Spectrum have been reviewing service users taking buprenorphine and where appropriate changing them over to Espranor. Prescribers use their professional judgement regarding a suitable dose when making the transition. We will always prescribe Espranor by brand to reduce the chance of dispensing errors and to ensure our service users consistently receive the same brand of medication.

Cgl Spectrum would like to remind you that Espranor **is not** interchangeable with generic buprenorphine sublingual tablets at the same dose (a "like for like" switch) as there are bioavailability differences between the formulations. There is also a difference in the way Espranor is administered, with the Espranor oral lyophilisate being placed directly on the tongue, rather than under the tongue.

More information about Espranor can be obtained from www.medicines.org.uk where the Summary of Product Characteristics and Patient Information Leaflet can be found. Cgl Spectrum are happy to support pharmacists with any queries they may have regarding the use of Espranor or any other medication by our service users.

Yours sincerely,

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