



To: All Community Pharmacies

**Directorate of Integrated Care  
Western Office**

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21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear Colleague,

**POTENTIAL DIVERSION OF OROMUCOSAL BUPRENORPHINE  
(ESPRANOR<sup>®</sup>)**

HSCB has received a number of reports concerning the diversion of Espranor<sup>®</sup> by patients, including those receiving their dose under supervision.

Most commonly reports suggest patients are concealing within the mouth, placing on drier areas, for example behind teeth or under dentures. Other techniques suggested include the use of denture adhesive on the roof of the mouth. Espranor<sup>®</sup> has then been manipulated into a powder for most commonly inhalation through the nose.

Community Pharmacists are asked to remain vigilant for potential diversion during the supervision of any Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST), including all formulations and brands of buprenorphine and buprenorphine with naloxone. Community pharmacists should contact the local Specialist Addiction service should they have any concerns. The contact details for the relevant Specialist Addiction Services can be found via this [link](#).

If you have any further general questions regarding OST please contact Joanne Crawford, HSCB Pharmacy Adviser ([joanne.crawford2@hscni.net](mailto:joanne.crawford2@hscni.net)) or the Pharmacy Adviser in your local HSCB office.

I wish to thank you again for your continued commitment to this important service.

Best wishes

*Kathryn Turner*

**Pharmacy Lead  
Health and Social Care Board**

<b>Contact Details for Local Integrated Care Offices:</b>				
<b>Belfast</b>	<b>South Eastern</b>	<b>Southern</b>	<b>Northern</b>	<b>Western</b>
12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	Tower Hill Armagh. BT61 9DR	County Hall 182 Galgorm Road Ballymena BT42 1QB	Gransha Park House 15 Gransha Park Clooney Road Londonderry BT47 6FN
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CC. GP (Substitute prescribers)  
Gary Maxwell, DoH  
Stephen Bergin, PHA  
Prison Services  
Trust Chief Executives for onward distribution to:  
*Trust Community Addiction Teams*  
*Trust Substitute Prescribing Teams*