

**BUTRANS® (buprenorphine)**

**GPI CODING:**

652000100088\*\*

**DESCRIPTION:**

Buprenorphine transdermal system is a potent narcotic pain reliever that is available as a transdermal formulation in three strengths: 5, 10, and 20 mcg/hour. Buprenorphine is a mu opioid partial agonist and a Schedule III controlled substance with similar abuse liability to other opioid agonists, legal or illicit. Buprenorphine is also an antagonist at kappa opioid receptors, an agonist at delta opioid receptors, and a partial agonist at ORL-1 (nociception) receptors.

The buprenorphine transdermal system is indicated for the management of moderate to severe chronic pain in patients requiring a continuous, around-the-clock opioid analgesic for an extended period of time. Buprenorphine transdermal system is not intended for use as an “as needed” (prn) analgesic. It is not indicated for acute/postoperative pain or if the pain is mild or not expected to persist for an extended period of time. Physicians should individualize treatment in every case, using non-opioid analgesics, opioids on an as-needed basis and/or combination products, and chronic opioid therapy in a progressive plan of pain management such as outlined by the World Health Organization, the American Pain Society, and Federation of State Medical Boards Model Policy. These guidelines, as well as other resources regarding the use of opioids, are available at: <http://www.fsmb.org/PAIN/resource.html#trt>.

**APPROVAL DURATION:**

Approval duration: 12 months

**CRITERIA FOR BUTRANS**

- I. Buphenorphine is being prescribed for moderate to severe chronic pain **AND**
- II. Patient is NOT being prescribed more than 20mcg/hour **AND**
- III. Patient is NOT concurrently taking buphenorphine with any long acting opioids(e.g., Avinza, Duragesic, Exalgo, Kadian, MS Contin ER, Opana ER, Oramorph SR, Oxycodone CR, Oxycodone ER, Oxycontin ER) **AND**
- IV. Patient is being prescribed buphenorphine for continuous, around-the-clock opioid pain relief for an extended period of time **AND**
- V. Patient has been assessed for clinical risks of opioid/substance abuse/or addiction using an assessment tool for opioid abuse **AND**
- VI. Patient is being assessed for the continued need for around-the-clock opioid analgesic therapy periodically