

COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR OPIOID PHARMACOTHERAPY

CPOP UPDATE – September 2026

Sublocade® discontinuation

From 31st December 2026, Sublocade® will no longer be available in Australia. This CPOP update provides guidance for prescribers and pharmacists in supporting patients through this transition period.

Information for prescribers

- Avoid commencing patients on Sublocade®
- Start planning for transition to alternative OST as soon as practicable
- NSW Health has provided a Clinical Consensus Guide for Prescribers on 'Transferring from Sublocade to other Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Medications or Completing treatment', available from:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/professionals/Pages/clinical-consensus-guide-treatment-transfer.aspx>

Supporting Patients

- Arrange a discussion with the patient at their next appointment. In some instances, it may be appropriate to set up an earlier appointment, depending on the patient's circumstances.
- Patients should be encouraged to speak with their treating team about their individual circumstances, ongoing treatment and, where appropriate, transition planning (e.g. transferring to BUVIDAL® or SUBOXONE®) or deciding to cease treatment, if appropriate.
- Treatment decisions are made in consultation with the patient.
- Recognising that changes to treatment may be challenging for patients and supporting them accordingly.

Provide printed information to patients at their appointments.

Prior to transitioning treatment to alternative OST

- Complete an *Application to prescribe opioid substitution treatment CPOP* 'change in treatment' form and send to Community Pharmacotherapy Program. Await Authorisation from Department of Health prior to commencing new treatment. Application form is available from:
https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Opioid-substitution-treatment
- Notify the patients current dosing pharmacy in writing of change in therapy. Cancel any outstanding prescriptions for Sublocade®.

Further information and support

- CPOP Advice and Support (CAS) line (health professionals only) - 24/7 service, 9442 5042

Information for pharmacists

- Pharmacists should work with patients and their prescribers to plan their next steps early to support continuity of treatment.
- Pharmacists have an important role in informing and reassuring patients. Encourage patients to arrange appointments to review treatment with their prescribers as soon as practicable.
- Provide reassurance that Sublocade® is safe to use and continues to be available during the transition period to other effective treatment options.
- Pharmacies can still order Sublocade® and orders will be accepted until 11 December 2026. Pharmacists should be mindful when ordering stock as PBS claims for Sublocade® cannot be made after 31 December 2026 and patients will likely be transitioning to alternative treatment options.
- For regulatory enquiries relating to the discontinuation of Sublocade®, pharmacists can contact the Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch on (08) 9222 6883 (option 1).
- Changing or completing OST may increase risk of overdose for some patients. Offer all patients free Take Home Naloxone and provide counselling on correct use.

Information for patients

Printable leaflet attached

Why is Sublocade® being discontinued?

The drug company (Indivior) has decided to withdraw Sublocade® from the Australian market for commercial reasons. The decision is not related to any safety or efficacy concerns.

I am currently prescribed Sublocade®, what do I need to do?

Make an appointment to discuss treatment options with your prescriber as soon as practicable.

Is it safe to continue Sublocade®?

Yes, it is safe to continue Sublocade® until you can transition to an alternative treatment with your healthcare practitioner. Do not stop or change your treatment on your own.

Are there other treatment options?

There are multiple medicines available for the treatment of opioid dependence. Your prescriber will explore alternative options with you.

Support is available

You are encouraged to discuss any concerns regarding the discontinuation of Sublocade® with your prescriber, pharmacist or other members of your treating team.

Contact the Community Pharmacotherapy Program 9219 1907 (Monday to Friday 08:30-16:30, excluding Public Holidays).

For assistance with patient management issues, treatment information and transfers contact the Community Pharmacotherapy Program (CPP) on 9219 1907.

Email: CPPAdmin@health.wa.gov.au.

For 24hr clinical advice contact the CPOP Advice and Support (CAS) on 9442 5042 or 1800 688 847 (health professionals only).

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