

Mundipharma's charter on the responsible medical use of opioid analgesics in pain management

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Opioid analgesics can be an important option for healthcare professionals to appropriately treat certain patients with pain. Notwithstanding this medical need, Mundipharma recognises that the use of prescription opioid medications is associated with risks, including misuse, abuse, addiction (opioid use disorder, OUD) and diversion. As a company that sells opioid medicines for appropriate and responsible medical use, we are committed to mitigating these risks and to supporting healthcare professionals in treating their patients in need.

The decision to prescribe opioid analgesics must carefully consider the patient's individual circumstances and medical history and balance the need for adequate pain relief with the associated risks and adverse effects of opioid therapy. Regular and careful monitoring by the clinician is essential to ensure that continued use of these medicines meets a medical need, which requires ongoing treatment with an opioid analgesic, and to ensure the lowest dose required is prescribed and the duration of treatment is no longer than clinically appropriate.

Mundipharma is committed to reducing the risks of opioid therapy through appropriate medical information for healthcare professionals, responsible sales and marketing practices and a secure supply chain.

As part of this commitment, Mundipharma:

1. Strictly follows national and international laws, regulations and guidelines governing the appropriate development, manufacture, distribution and promotion of opioid medicines. Our Product Stewardship Committee provides an ethical framework based on these laws, regulations, and guidelines.
2. Provides healthcare professionals with accurate, balanced and scientifically valid information about opioid analgesics, including information on the associated risks and adverse effects. The purpose of this information is to support healthcare professionals in making their assessment of the risks and benefits of opioid therapy for each individual patient.
3. Chooses not to promote or provide or support medical education about strong opioids for the treatment of chronic non-cancer pain.* Reactive medical information about the use of strong opioids in chronic non cancer pain is only provided by our medical team in response to unsolicited requests from healthcare professionals.
4. Does not promote or advocate the off-label use of opioid analgesics.
5. Maintains strict global governance, which follows applicable laws and codes, for all our activities and materials, including mandatory compliance and medical training of all employees who interact with healthcare professionals regarding opioid analgesics. In addition, all Mundipharma employees, regardless of role, undertake mandatory opioid awareness training.
6. Assesses the effectiveness of our governance through regular auditing and monitoring.
7. Assesses and audits our supply chains to reduce the risk of diversion or loss, and continually improves the security of the supply chain through effective reporting, monitoring, investigation, and corrective and preventative action planning.
8. Promotes and actively manages our Integrity Line to enable anyone to report issues or concerns without fear of retaliation and with the assurance that all reports will be promptly investigated and that confirmed violations will be addressed through appropriate actions.

Mundipharma is committed to high ethical and legal standards. In the event you have any concerns or questions please direct them to:

Brian Sheehan
Chief Scientific Officer

brian.sheehan@mundipharma-rd.eu

Or you can contact us at the Mundipharma Integrity Line

If you are a journalist, please contact:

Lesley Ferguson White
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* Apart from the seven-day, low dose, transdermal buprenorphine patch.