

ALASKA MEDICAID

**Butorphanol Tartrate Nasal Spray**

Nasal Spray: 10 mg/mL, in 2.5 mL vials

**PREFERRED DRUG:**

NA

**NON-PREFERRED DRUG:**

NA

**INDICATION:**

Butorphanol tartrate is an opioid agonist / antagonist analgesic, and is “indicated for the management of pain when the use of an opioid analgesic is appropriate.”<sup>1</sup>

**NOTE:** The filling pharmacy may override PA for patients in hospice, who have cancer, or are in LTC facilities

**CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL:**

1. The patient is at least 18 years of age; **AND**
2. Treatment with at least one “first line” medication has been less than optimal; **AND**
3. The patient can not be either safely or effectively treated with a combination opioid analgesic that is combined with either acetaminophen, aspirin, or ibuprofen; **OR**
4. If requested for the treatment of migraines, the patient must also be on prophylactic migraine therapy and Triptans, (unless this therapy is contraindicated).

**LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION:**

1. Coverage may be approved for up to 3 months.

**DISPENSING LIMIT:**

1. The dispensing limit is 2 units (5 mL) per month. (This product is supplied in 2.5 mL bottles).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

“Because of its opioid antagonist properties, butorphanol is not recommended for use in patients dependent on opioids. Such patients should have an adequate period of withdrawal from opioid drugs prior to beginning butorphanol therapy. In patients taking opioid analgesics chronically, butorphanol has precipitated withdrawal symptoms such as anxiety, agitation, mood changes, hallucinations, dysphoria, weakness and diarrhea. Because of the difficulty in assessing opioid tolerance in patients who have recently received repeated doses of narcotic analgesic medication, caution should be used in the administration of butorphanol to such patients.”<sup>1</sup>

**REFERENCES / FOOTNOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> Butorphanol Nasal Spray package insert, available at: <<http://bidocs.boehringer-ingelheim.com/BIWebAccess/ViewServlet.ser?docBase=renetnt&folderPath=/Prescribing+Information/Pis/Roxane/Butorphanol/Butorphanol+Tartrate+Nasal+Spray.pdf>>  
Accessed 05/28/2009.