



**Prior Authorization Criteria**  
(Quantity Limit)

**Drug: Stadol Nasal Spray (butorphanol tartrate)**

**P&T Reviewed: 3/04, 6/07, 6/08, 9/09, 9/10, 12/11, 10/12, 10/13, 10/14, 11/15**

---

**Description:**

Butorphanol tartrate is a synthetically derived opioid agonist-antagonist analgesic of the phenanthrene series. It has low intrinsic activity at receptors of the  $\mu$ -opioid type (morphine-like). It is also an agonist at  $k$ -opioid receptors.

**FDA Approved Indications:**

Stadol NS (butorphanol tartrate) is indicated for the management of pain when the use of an opioid analgesic is appropriate.

**Dosing and Administration:**

The usual recommended dose for initial nasal administration is 1mg (1 spray in one nostril). If adequate pain relief is not achieved within 60-90 minutes, an additional 1-mg dose may be given.

The initial dose sequence outlined above may be repeated in 3-4 hours as required after the second dose of the sequence.

For the management of severe pain, an initial dose of 2mg (1 spray in each nostril) may be used in patients who will be able to remain recumbent in the event drowsiness or dizziness occurs. In such patients, additional doses should not be given for 3-4 hours. The incidence of adverse events is higher with an initial 2-mg dose.

**Drug Abuse and Dependence:**

*Drug Abuse*-Butorphanol tartrate, by all routes of administration, has been associated with episodes of abuse. Of the cases received, there were more reports of abuse with the nasal spray formulation than with the injectable formulation.

*Physical Dependence, Tolerance, and Withdrawal*-Prolonged, continuous use of butorphanol tartrate may result in physical dependence or tolerance (a decrease in response to a given dose). Abrupt cessation of use by patients with physical dependence may result in symptoms of withdrawal.

*Note*-Proper patient selection, dose and prescribing limitations, appropriate directions for use, and frequent monitoring are important to minimize the risk of abuse and physical dependence.

**Authorization and Limitations: 2 bottles (2.5ml each) per month**

After initial priming, the 2.5ml bottle will deliver an average of 14-15 doses of Stadol NS.

**The above criteria is based on the following reference(s):**

Stadol® [ prescribing information ] Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Princeton, NJ