



Re-classification of gabapentin and pregabalin



From the 1st of April 2019 gabapentin and pregabalin will be reclassified as **Schedule 3 controlled drugs (CDs)** and **require the same prescription details as tramadol.**

The following conditions will have to be met:

- 1) CD prescription requirements (**the dose, formulation & strength must be specified, the total quantity must be written in words and figures** and instalment quantities must be included if to be supplied in instalments).
- 2) The recommended maximum quantity should not exceed 30 days.

3) Prescriptions must be signed by the prescriber (a signed copy of all electronic discharge documents (EDDs) requesting gabapentin or pregabalin must be received by the hospital dispensary before medication will be released).

4) EDD will not prompt prescribers to complete the necessary CD prescription requirements so prescribers should take care to ensure any necessary information is added on the system or in ink when signing the printed copy.

5) Gabapentin and pregabalin prescriptions are only valid for 28 days from the date signed, or the appropriate date if specified.

Important Points to Note:

- A signed requisition is required via the CD order book (gabapentin & pregabalin will be removed from all stock lists in NHS Tayside)
- There are no safe custody requirements for gabapentin and pregabalin (i.e. not required to be stored in a CD cupboard)
- Records for either drug will not need to be kept in a CD register
- As with all Schedule 3 drugs (e.g. tramadol) both drugs must be denatured before disposal using a denaturing kit
- A patient's representative can collect the medication

Please remember gabapentin is the first line choice for the treatment of neuropathic pain and pregabalin is 3rd line as per Tayside Guidelines. Neither drug should be used for the treatment of nociceptive pain.

Author/s: Jennifer Gray, Specialist Clinical Pharmacist, Neurosurgery/Palliative and Pain Services

Editor: Karen E Harkness, Principal Pharmacist, Clinical Effectiveness.

Do you wish to write a Tayside Prescriber?

Do you already have a suitable topic for a Tayside Prescriber?

For further information contact: Carol Walkinshaw, Business Manager, Pharmacy Service, Kings Cross

Tel: Direct Dial (01382) 835149 | Internal Extension 71317 | E-mail carol.walkinshaw@nhs.net

This bulletin is based on evidence available to the Tayside Prescribing Support Unit at time of publication and is covered by the [NHS Tayside Privacy and Accessibility Statements](#). [CLICK HERE](#) for access to the Medicines Governance section of the Pharmacy Staffnet site.