



## Gabapentin and Pregabalin – changes to Schedule 3 Controlled Drug

From 1 April 2019, gabapentin and pregabalin will be reclassified as Schedule 3 controlled drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. Both drugs are exempt from safe custody so storage in a CD cabinet will not be required.

The following changes will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019:

### 1. Prescription requirements for Schedule 3 controlled drugs will apply to WP10 & WP10 HPs:

- Dose must be clearly defined; 'as directed' is no longer legal
- Formulation (i.e. tablets) must be stated
- Strength in addition to the dose must be stated
- Total quantity in both words and figures

### 2. Prescriptions will be valid for 28 days after the appropriate date on the prescription

The appropriate date is either the signature date or any other date indicated on the prescription (by the prescriber) as a date before which the drug should not be supplied – whichever is the later.

### 3. Maximum quantity of Schedule 3 drugs prescribed should not exceed 30 days

### 4. Repeat dispensing will not be legal. Any existing prescriptions will not be valid

### 5. Emergency supplies will not be permitted.

### 6. Private prescriptions will need to be issued on a WP10PCD form

### 7. Supplies will need to be requisitioned using the mandatory WP10CDF form

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

### PRESCRIBERS

- Comply with schedule 3 prescription writing requirements
- Do not prescribe greater than 30 days' supply
- Use WP10PCD forms for private prescriptions

### GP PRACTICES

- Identify patients and review all on repeat prescriptions for gabapentin and pregabalin
- Stop patients on repeat dispensing and put other arrangements in place to order monthly
- Inform patients of the changes and allow additional time to manage script requests

### PHARMACIES

- Ensure pharmacy staff are aware of the change in law and understand the changes to prescriptions
- Communicate change to patients. If prescription needs changing, ask patients to speak to GP practice
- Refer patients on repeat dispensing back to GP practice
- Use appropriate WP10CDF requisition forms