

Guidelines for the use of Quetiapine XL (Seroquel XL)

Following approval by the Trust's Medicines Committee for the use of Quetiapine XL, these guidelines are intended to ensure that this medicine is used safely and effectively.

Quetiapine XL is a modified release ONCE a DAY formulation that will now be available in addition to the standard release formulation of quetiapine. It should only be used when the standard formulation is considered unsuitable. Patients considered suitable for Quetiapine XL are:

- Those at high risk of adverse effects to quetiapine (e.g. orthostatic hypotension) or those experiencing adverse effects that are related to peak concentrations on twice a day quetiapine (e.g. sedation and somnolence).
- Those requiring rapid titration.
- Patients where once a day dosing is beneficial e.g. patients who are chaotic with tablets or do not remember to take tablets.
- Please note; Quetiapine XL is not suitable for actively non-compliant patients. The modified release nature of the drug is completely dependent upon the tablet being swallowed whole. If tablets need to be crushed, then the standard release formulation and dosing schedule should be used.

Patients stable and compliant with quetiapine twice a day regimes should NOT be automatically switched to the XL preparation.

Licensed therapeutic indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schizophrenia • Manic episodes associated with Bipolar disorder
Dosing	<p>Day one 300mg od Day two 600mg od Recommended daily dose is 600mg daily titrated according to response and adverse effects to between the ranges of 400 – 800mg. Maximum BNF dose 800mg od</p>
Elderly patients and patients with renal or hepatic impairment	Clearance of Quetiapine XL is reduced in the elderly and in patients with renal and hepatic impairment. Dosing should start at 50mg/day and be increased by 50mg/day according to clinical response and tolerability.
Contraindications	Hypersensitivity to quetiapine
Precautions	Cardiovascular disease QT prolongation Seizures Tardive dyskinesia NMS Severe neutropenia Interactions Hyperglycaemia
Interactions	P450 3A4 inhibitors/inducers (ketoconazole, carbamazepine) Grapefruit juice Other drugs that affect the QT interval
Tablet strengths available	50mg, 200mg, 300mg, 400mg
Directions for use	Take tablets whole, do not crush or chew

For full Summary of Product Characteristics see <http://emc.medicines.org.uk/>