

INTERNAL MEMO

To:	All Prescribers, Nursing Teams and Pharmacists
Cc:	
From:	Jenny Melville (CD Accountable Officer) Indreet Anand (Medicines Safety Officer)
Telephone:	
Email:	jennifer.melville2@nhs.net / Indreet.anand2@nhs.net
File Ref:	
Subject:	Rescheduling of Pregabalin and Gabapentin to a schedule 3 Controlled Drug
Date:	27 th March 2019

As of April 1st 2019 pregabalin and gabapentin will become schedule 3 controlled drugs under the Misuse of Drugs regulations 2001 and Class C under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. This rescheduling will mean that full controlled drug prescription requirements will apply. However safe custody and record keeping is not a legal requirement.

Pregabalin and Gabapentin (Sch 3 CDs) will require the same mandatory requirements as **Tramadol**.

Background

The reclassification follows Government consultation and recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for additional safeguards to be put in place because of concerns around the misuse of these drugs. Please use the link below for more information from NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/handling-of-gabapentin-and-pregabalin-as-schedule-3-controlled-drugs-in-health-and-justice-commissioned-services/>

Summary of ELFT requirements for pregabalin and gabapentin from 1st April 2019

Controlled Drug	Safe Storage in CD Cabinet	Entry in CD Register	Full CD Prescription Requirements apply (outpatient and discharge medication)	Inpatient supplies to be ordered via ELFT Sch 3 CD requisition slip	Return to pharmacy for destruction as denaturing of CDs is required
Pregabalin	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gabapentin	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Storage & Record Keeping

Pregabalin and gabapentin will continue to be stored in the medicines cupboard or trolley; they do not need to be stored in the CD cupboard.

Supplies do not need to be entered into a CD register.

Prescribing Outpatient and Discharge Medication

All outpatient and discharge prescriptions must fulfil the full legal CD prescriptions requirements. Similarly, to all schedule 2 & 3 CDs, when ordering medication for STL / TTAs, prescribers should complete the pre-printed ELFT CD prescription form (as per CD policy) to ensure full prescription requirements are adhered to. Full legal CD prescription requirements are as follows:

- Patient name and address
 - Prescriber's address
 - Prescriber's signature
 - Date of prescriber's signature
 - Drug name, strength and formulation
 - Dose (Note: 'as directed' is NOT acceptable; 'one as directed' is acceptable)
 - Total quantity (in both words and figures)
- *Please refer to CD policy for full details*

- Prescriptions are only valid for supply within 28 days of the prescribing date.
- The maximum quantity prescribed should NOT exceed a 30-day supply.

Prescribing for Inpatients

Inpatient medication charts are an instruction to administer a medicine within the hospital. When using these drug charts, CDs do not need to be written up with the full CD prescription requirements, so can be prescribed as any other medication.

Supplying for Inpatients

- Inpatient supply for administration on the ward can be arranged by pharmacy without the need for a signed prescription, as it is classified as a "Patient specific direction".
- Nursing staff can request a supply for an inpatient via the Schedule 3 CD Requisition Sheet (as per CD policy), which will be checked and countersigned by pharmacy to authorise the supply.
- The supplies issued will not have instructions for use and must never be given to the patient on leaving the ward.

Information for nursing staff

- Patients should never be given their inpatient supply from the ward to take with them on leave or on discharge; pharmacy will require a TTA/Short term leave (STL) request, alongside a completed ELFT CD prescription form (as per CD policy) in order to provide a new supply for this purpose.
- Any unused or expired pregabalin or gabapentin should be brought to the attention of the pharmacist or pharmacy technician, as it will need to be destroyed in line with CD regulations.

Further Information

The CD policy is being updated to incorporate the rescheduling of pregabalin and gabapentin as schedule 3 controlled drugs.

Please refer to the full CD policy for further information.

For further information, please contact your local pharmacy team:

elft.pharmacytowerhamlets@nhs.net
elft.pharmacycityandhackney@nhs.net
elft.pharmacynewham@nhs.net
elft.pharmacyluton@nhs.net

We care

We respect

We are inclusive