



Ein cyf/Our ref: Tramadol reclassification
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**To: All GP Practices,
GP Out of Hours Services
Medicines Management Teams**

Tramadol reclassification

Dear Colleagues,

You may already be aware that recent changes to Controlled drugs legislation has been approved by Parliament and will come into effect on **Tuesday 10 June 2014**.

- Tramadol will become a Schedule 3 CD (CD No Reg POM), but will be exempt from Safe Custody Regulations

The table below summarises the new legislation.

	Tramadol
Designation from 10 June 2014	Schedule 3 (CD No Reg POM)
Safe Custody Regulations apply	No
Controlled Drug Prescription requirements (handwritten & total in words and figures)	Yes
Prescription valid for	28 days
Address of the prescriber required to be within the UK	Yes
Emergency supply	No
Controlled drug Requisition necessary	Yes
Denature before disposal	Yes

GP Prescribing systems

EMIS have already made the changes to their prescribing system but the changes in Vision will come into action once the June update has occurred. Vision has issued information to GP practices on temporary measures that can be taken until the update occurs. A copy of this advice can be obtained from the local Medicines Management Teams if not received from INPS. Please note we are not aware of how these changes are being approached with other system providers.

Suggested action:

- Ensure all practice staff and GPs (including locums) are aware of this advice
- Review patients currently receiving tramadol prescriptions and ensure that the prescriptions are compliant with CD prescription writing requirements. Handwritten prescription amendments may be required until the system updates have taken place.
- Contact your local community pharmacy to agree action for prescriptions already issued but not yet presented for dispensing. Pharmacists have been given guidance by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.
(<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/RPS%20Tramadol%20support-alert-article.pdf>)

GP Out of hours services

Please note that prescriptions for tramadol can no longer be faxed to Community Pharmacies for dispensing.

The legislation also covered changes to the classification of:

- Lisdexamfetamine will become a Schedule 2 CD (CD POM)
- Zopiclone and Zaleplon will become Schedule 4 Part 1 CDs (CD Benz POM)

Full details of the legislation can be found here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1275/contents/made>

For further information, please contact your local Medicines Management Team

Yours sincerely,

Amy Jayham,
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Hywel Dda University Health Board.

(A signed copy is kept on file)