

Medicines Optimisation

Prescribing Memo

Recent changes in Controlled Drug legislation for tramadol, lisdexamfetamine, zopiclone and zaleplon

Date: 22nd May 2014

Memo Number: 12/14

Main Points

Please see the attached information from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society relating to recent changes in Controlled Drug legislation.

Implications for practices are:

From 10 June 2014 Tramadol will be designated as a schedule 3 controlled drug, this will have the following implications for prescribing:

- *Prescriptions for Tramadol will only be valid for 28 days from date of issue*
- *The prescription must clearly state the form (e.g. tablets, capsules), strength and dose. The dose must be as specific as possible; 'Take One as directed' is acceptable however, 'Take as directed' is not.*
- *The quantity prescribed must be written in words and figures.*
- *The total quantity supplied should not exceed 30 days, unless in exceptional circumstances as with all other controlled drugs.*
- *Tramadol will no longer be prescribable on 'batch' repeat dispensing prescriptions.*
- *Tramadol, as a schedule 3 controlled drug, cannot be prescribed using EPS*

We are seeking further details on the implications for patients currently prescribed tramadol on repeat dispensing from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and will share this once it is available.

Until then practices may wish to begin reviewing the quantities of tramadol prescribed to bring this in line with the regulations coming into effect on 10th June.

Note: the changes relating to Zopiclone and Zalepon will now bring them into line with the same controlled drug status as Diazepam.