Prescribing Hot Topics | Formulary Updates | Drug Safety Updates

East Lancashire Health Economy Medicines Management Board
www.elmmb.nhs.uk

Pregabalin and gabapentin

to be reclassified as Controlled Drugs

February 2019

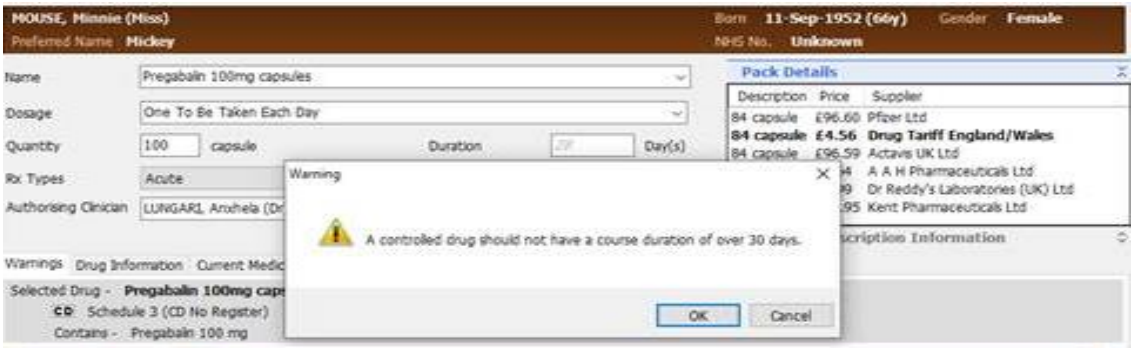
From 1st April 2019, amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and the Safe Custody Regulations 1973 come into force which means that pregabalin and gabapentin will be classified as Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs (CDs). This follows Government consultation and recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for additional safeguards to be put in place because of concerns around the misuse of these drugs.

Controlled Drug (CD) prescription writing requirements:
Schedule 3 CDs prescriptions must contain the following (as outlined in The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001):

- The dose;
- The form;
- The strength (where appropriate);
- The total quantity or dosage units of the preparation in both words and figures.

Validity of form:
Prescriptions for Schedule 3 CDs are only valid for dispensing for 28 days after prescription date. The 28 day period of validity runs from the date the prescription is signed unless the prescriber has specified a start date on the prescription.

Length of treatment:
The quantity of Schedule 3 CDs should be limited to a quantity for up to 30 days treatment. In cases where the prescriber believes that a prescription should be issued for a longer period, the prescriber may do so but will need to be able to justify that there is a clinical need and that it would not cause an unacceptable risk to patient safety.



Repeat Prescribing - Schedule 3 CDs can be issued as repeat prescriptions although practices should ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place, particularly for patients prescribed other drugs subject to misuse.

Repeat dispensing - Schedule 3 CDs **cannot** be prescribed on repeat dispensing (RD) batch prescriptions.

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) - Pregabalin or Gabapentin will not be available to supply via the Electronic Prescription Service until the full rollout of controlled drug prescribing via EPS. A split prescription will therefore be generated where items are separated into an electronic and a paper prescription. Paper prescriptions will need to be collected. Alternatively print all items on paper FP10 prescription.

EMIS will make the necessary changes in MKB release version 147, which is being rolled out to ensure the changes are in place in time for the regulatory changes. Sample patient communication is available from your Medicines Management Contact.

Ref: https://psnc.org.uk