

Reclassification of Gabapentin and Pregabalin

The following legislative changes will apply from **Monday 1st April 2019**:

- **Gabapentin** will become a **Schedule 3** controlled drug (CD No Register POM), but will be exempt from safe custody regulations
- **Pregabalin** will become a **Schedule 3** controlled drug (CD No Register POM), but will be exempt from safe custody regulations

We recommend that if you have any patients that are on **gabapentin** or **pregabalin** that are receiving electronic prescriptions and/or using the NHS repeat dispensing scheme to contact the GP practice to review this prescribing because of these legislative changes.

You should refer to your professional guidance material, such as the Medicines Ethics and Practice Guide or any other support material, to revisit the Controlled Drug prescription requirements.

As a reminder, Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs cannot be prescribed as part of the NHS repeat dispensing scheme (which now includes gabapentin and pregabalin).

Country-specific points are addressed below:

England: At the time of issuing this communication, the prescribing of Schedule 2/3 CDs via EPS is currently in pilot. For customers in England, this may result in patients being reverted to a paper prescription.

If your GP surgery is involved in this pilot, the quantity **must** be written in words in the additional instructions. Both ProScript and ProScript Connect will cater for any electronic prescriptions received for these Schedule 2/3 CDs. We recommend that you download and process any EPS Release 2 prescriptions for gabapentin or pregabalin by Sunday 31st March at the very latest.

Scotland: Contractors in Scotland are reminded that Schedule 2, 3 and 4 controlled drugs cannot be prescribed on CMS/MCR serial prescriptions.