

## Berkshire West Area Prescribing Committee Policy Statement

<b>Drug Name</b>	Tapentadol tablets, prolonged release, oral solution (Palexia SR, tablets, oral solution®)
<b>Indication under review</b>	Management of severe chronic pain in adults which can be adequately managed only with opioid analgesia
<b>Policy No:</b>	APC 127
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	May 2016
<b>Review Date:</b>	May 2019
<b>Policy Statement:</b> Tapentadol is recommended as a treatment option for managing moderate to severe chronic pain in adults where conventional opioids have failed to provide adequate pain relief or cannot be tolerated	
<b>Traffic Light Status</b>	<b>Amber</b>
<b>Key Points considered:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The APC supported the evidence of efficacy and safety for this treatment.</li> <li>• Initiation will be by consultants in the pain clinic or in a palliative care setting.</li> <li>• RBH have proposed treatment as 3<sup>rd</sup> line, reserved for patients who have:</li> <li>• failed on conventional opioids or where an opioid is not tolerated.</li> <li>• Where a neuropathic pain component cannot be excluded.</li> <li>• Expected numbers are 20-40 patients for RBFT and 10-20 from the palliative care setting.</li> </ul>	
Reference	
<a href="https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/28373/SPC/Palexia+SR+prolonged+release+tablets/">https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/28373/SPC/Palexia+SR+prolonged+release+tablets/</a> Lange B, Kuperwasser B, Okatoto A et al. Efficacy and safety of tapentadol prolonged release for chronic osteoarthritis pain and low back pain. Adv Ther 2010; 27: Steigerwald I, Hans G, Schafer M et al. Equipotency of tapentadol and World Health Organisation (WHO) Step III opioids for the management of severe, chronic low back pain – interim results from an open-label, phase 3b study (Abstract) 20 January 2011. Wild JE, Grond S, Kuperwasser B et al. Long-term safety and tolerability of tapentadol extended release for the management of chronic low back pain or osteoarthritis pain. Pain Practice 2010	
<b>Date taken to APC:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
<b>Date Ratified by MMC on Behalf of the Board:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2016

Berkshire West Area Prescribing Policies serve as a guide to clinicians. This does not overrule the clinical or budgetary responsibility of clinicians when considering treatment for individual patients.

Brown	Green	Amber	Red
These drugs have been reviewed and are not considered a cost effective use of scarce NHS resources	Medicines suitable for routine use. Primary care prescribers take full responsibility for prescribing	Medicines that should be initiated or recommended by a specialist and can be continued in primary care under a shared care agreement.	Medicines which should be prescribed by specialists only