

## **Tapentadol MR (Palexia® SR)**

### **Tapentadol as a treatment option for non-specific pain**

#### **Commissioning Statement**

Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group has agreed not to fund the prescribing of Tapentadol for treatment for non-specific pain.

Therapeutic gains over tramadol appear to have been demonstrated in a limited number of trials. However, the cost of Tapentadol MR treatment is approximately ten-times that of treatment with tramadol MR.

**This medicine is classified as BLACK for this indication**

#### **Overview:**

Two evidence reviews have been completed that support the use of tapentadol MR in two specific patient populations. These populations are:

- Tapentadol as a treatment option for neuropathic pain in palliative care, and
- Tapentadol as a treatment option for intractable neuropathic pain in non-palliative care patients.

There is limited additional evidence that would support the use of tapentadol MR outside of these patient populations.

There is one meta-analysis, one randomised-controlled trial and one descriptive study in the literature that compare the use of tapentadol MR with tramadol. These studies compare efficacy of managing different pain types and different medication regimens. There is inconsistency in use of adjuvant analgesia (i.e. paracetamol use) and there is also limited consensus of study design, making useful comparison between the studies difficult.

As limited comparability between the studies endures, it is difficult to consider the data as coherent evidence in support of tapentadol MR use in preference to tramadol. Hence, because of the increased treatment costs over tramadol (see below) it is not viable to recommend tapentadol MR for more general use.

For details around the colour classification system please refer to the website of the Lancashire Medicines Management Group at: <http://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/>