









Gabapentin and pregabalin classification as Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs from 1 April 2019

Prior to 1 April 2019 – continue to treat both drugs as prescription-only medicines (POMs)

After 1 April 2019 – Schedule 3 CD requirements will apply including:

Prescription writing requirements 	<p>CD prescription writing requirements will apply, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly defined dose Correct formulation Strength, as appropriate Total quantity/dosage units in both words and figures <p>Note for members in Scotland: CD Accountable Officers' (AO) Network state the prescriber's name must also be present</p>
Validity 	<p>Prescription validity, including any owings, is 28 days from the 'appropriate date': defined as whichever of the following is the later date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date on which the prescription was signed by the prescriber The date indicated before which the drug should not be supplied
Total quantity 	<p>Although not a legal requirement, there is a strong recommendation from the Department of Health and Social Care and The Scottish Government that the maximum quantity of all Schedule 3 CDs prescribed should not exceed 30 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater quantities require justifications from the prescriber
CD register entry 	<p>An entry in the CD register for purchase and supply of gabapentin and pregabalin is not required to be made as such records are only required for Schedule 1 and 2 CDs.</p>
Private prescriptions 	<p>Must be on the standardised form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> England: FP10PCD Scotland: PPCD (1) Wales: WP10PCD/WP10CDSS
Typographical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacist can dispense if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a minor typographical error or spelling mistake Total quantity is specified in either words or figures, but not both Pharmacist must amend the prescription and mark to attribute amendment to themselves
Emergency supplies 	<p>Cannot be made either at the patient's or prescriber's request</p>
Destruction: patient returned and pharmacy stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denature before disposal No requirement for an authorised witness to be present – follow pharmacy procedures No record keeping requirements
NHS Repeat Dispensing Service (England)	<p>NHS Repeat Dispensing Service prescriptions can no longer be dispensed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper (RA/RDs) and electronic Repeat Dispensing Service prescriptions cannot be dispensed Note: patients are still able to request, and hence prescriptions issued for regular repeat medicines
Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) (England)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These can continue to be dispensed by those pharmacies using this function until 31 March 2019 EPS systems will all be updated by 31 March 2019 – refer to NHS Digital further information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient medication record (PMR) suppliers can provide details EMIS has started making changes and is expected to have these undertaken by 15 February 2019

Further guidance:

- NPA: <https://www.npa.co.uk/news-and-events/news-item/gabapentin-and-pregabalin-cd-classification/>
- NHS Scotland CDAO: <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/media/CLT/ResourceUploads/4092739/20e044a1-45a9-4b1e-8783-378392f9cc4b.pdf>