



### Medicines of Low and Limited Clinical Value (MOLLCV)

*Classification - Items of low clinical effectiveness, where there is a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness or there are significant safety concerns.*

The Scottish Government has published [Medicines – Achieving Value and Sustainability in Prescribing Guidance](#). This guidance aims to reduce the use of low value medicines and ensure the effective use of medicines with limited clinical value throughout NHS Scotland. **Tramadol/paracetamol combination is classified as a medicines of low clinical value which should no longer be prescribed.**

### TRAMADOL 37.5MG/PARACETAMOL 325MG COMBINATION PRODUCT (Tramacet®)

#### ACTIONS

**SHARE** – ensure all prescribers are aware of these national recommendations

**STOP** – do not prescribe tramadol 37.5mg/paracetamol 325mg combination product for any new patients

**REVIEW** – existing patients prescribed tramadol 37.5mg/paracetamol 325mg combination product should be reviewed and deprescribed, where safe to do so.

#### Background Information:

- paracetamol and tramadol are both commonly available analgesics. This recommendation relates to where both chemical ingredients are used together in a single combination product tramadol 37.5mg/paracetamol 325mg (Tramacet®).
- the [SMC](#) has advised that tramadol 37.5mg/paracetamol 325mg tablet (Tramacet®) is NOT recommended for use within NHS Scotland for the symptomatic treatment of moderate to severe pain.
- Tramacet® is noted as a non-formulary item on Grampian Area Formulary and is not recommended for use in Grampian.
- Tramacet® costs significantly more than its individual components prescribed separately.
- there is no evidence that the combination product is more effective or safer than the individual preparations.
- this product contains a sub-therapeutic dose of paracetamol. Dose of 2 tablets contains only 650mg paracetamol.
- tramadol can cause side effects including nausea, dizziness particularly in the elderly and has risks of dependency, addiction and withdrawal.

#### Prescribing Information:

NHS Grampian currently has 45 patients prescribed tramadol 37.5mg/paracetamol 325mg combination product (Tramacet).

#### Recommendations:

Current patients should be reviewed. Medication should adjusted according to ongoing need and levels of analgesia required. Consider alternatives such as regular, full dose paracetamol (dose adjusted according to weight if <50kg) with the addition of other analgesics such as dihydrocodeine/codeine as required.

Information extracted from Scottish Government: [Items of Low and Limited Clinical Value - Medicines - achieving value and sustainability in prescribing: guidance - gov.scot](#)