



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Tapentadol

Scope (Staff): All WNHS Staff

Scope (Area): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

Quick Links

[Dose](#)

[Administration](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Pregnancy and
Breastfeeding](#)

Restrictions

Formulary: [Slow release tablet - Restricted](#),

[Immediate release - Provisional listing](#): Under the direction of a Pain Service or Anaesthetist for inpatient and discharge patients.

Non-Formulary - [IPA Required](#)

[HIGH RISK Medication](#) 

Medication Class

Analgesics

Presentation

Immediate Release Tablets: 50mg

Slow Release Tablets: 50mg, 100mg, 150mg

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 30°C.

Protect from light (slow release).

Schedule 8 Medication

Dose

Moderate to Severe Pain

Doses vary and depend on the indication and previous analgesic requirements.

Titrate dose according to response, respiratory rate and sedation score.

Suggested starting dose (immediate release): 50 mg every 4 to 6 hours (a second 50 mg dose can be taken 1 hour after the initial dose if required). Usual maintenance 50 to 100mg every 4 to 6 hours. Maximum 600 mg in 24 hours (700 mg on day 1).

Suggested starting dose (slow release tablets): 50 mg twice daily, increasing by 50 mg twice daily every 3 days if required. Maximum 500 mg in 24 hours.

Doses may need reducing in moderate hepatic impairment.

Administration

Slow release tablets: Swallow whole. Do not break, crush or chew.

Monitoring

Respiratory rate, sedation score, dependence, constipation

Pregnancy

Consider alternative

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Breastfeeding

Consider alternative, caution advised

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

Department of Health

[Recommendations for prescribing analgesia on discharge following surgery or acute injury](#)

[CCC Report on the Supply and Management of Schedule 8 Controlled Drugs at Certain Public Hospitals in Western Australia](#)

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Palliative Care](#)

[Acute Pain Service](#)

[Pre-operative Medication Management](#)

[Gynaecology \(Non-oncological\)](#)

Patient Information Leaflet:

[Medicines used to manage pain](#)

[Post-operative pain control](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Anaesthetic technician competency framework for handling of controlled substances](#)

[Reporting of S8 or S4R medicine discrepancies](#)

References









Australian Medicines Handbook. Tapentadol. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2022 [cited 2022 Apr 22]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Tapentadol. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2022 [cited 2022 Apr 22]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

Hale TW. Tapentadol. In: HalesMeds.com [Internet]. New York: Springer Publishing Company; c2021 [cited 2022 Apr 22]. Available from: <https://www.halesmeds.com/>

MIMS Australia. Palexia IR Immediate release tablets. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2022 [cited 2022 Apr 22]. Available from: <https://www.mimsonline.com.au>

MIMS Australia. Palexia SR Sustained release tablets. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2022 [cited 2022 Apr 22]. Available from: <https://www.mimsonline.com.au>

Keywords	tapentadol, Palexia ®, immediate release, slow release, opioid, analgesia, analgesic, schedule 8, s8, controlled drug, controlled medicine, pain				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH Pharmacy Department				
Version Info:	1.0				
Date First Issued:	2022	Last Reviewed:	May 2022	Review Date:	May 2025
Endorsed by:	Medicines and Therapeutics Committee			Date:	08/06/2022
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 2: Partnering with Consumers <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 5: Comprehensive Care <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 6: Communicating for Safety <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 7: Blood Management <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration </div> </div>				
Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. Access the current version from WNHS HealthPoint.					

The health impact upon Aboriginal people has been considered, and where relevant incorporated and appropriately addressed in the development of this document (insert ISD Number). (Please refer to the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration for Department of Health and Health Service Provider Guidelines – please delete once you have completed this).

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© Women and Newborn Health Service 2022

Copyright of this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.