

Position statement on the prescribing of Paracetamol and Tramadol combination product

Following the NHS England guidance 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs (version 2, June 2019) the following changes to prescribing have been agreed across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

From 17th September 2019
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the prescribing of Paracetamol and Tramadol combination product

Decision

- The decision to stop Paracetamol and Tramadol combination product applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge. BHR CCGs have agreed NO exceptions to this recommendation

This decision was made because:

- Paracetamol and tramadol combination products are more expensive than the products with the individual components ([Drug Tariff](#))
- PrescQIPP Community Interest Company (CIC) did not identify any significant advantages over individual products. There are also different strengths of Tramadol (37.5mg) and Paracetamol (325mg) in the combination product compared to commonly available individual preparations of Tramadol (50mg) and Paracetamol (500mg), although the PrescQIPP CIC review found no evidence that combination product is more effective or safer than the individual preparations
- BHR CCGs have a duty to spend taxpayer's money wisely, to make sure they get the best value possible – especially when NHS funding is being severely squeezed and more patients are being seen with more complex health issues than ever before

Reference:

NHS England and NHS Improvement. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. Version 2, June 2019. Publishing approval reference 000608 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>