

PA is required for requests for formulary tramadol 50 mg tablets exceeding QL of 120 tablets per 30 days AND/OR requests to exceed 90 days of treatment per 365 days.

1. Is the member being treated for an OHP funded condition?
 - a. Yes- Move to question 2
 - b. No- Deny Cat 1- *Member diagnosis is not a funded condition on the OHP prioritized list*

2. Does the member have a high seizure risk (such as head trauma, CNS infection, malignancy or in drug or alcohol withdrawal), a history of seizures or is the member taking any medications that may lower seizure threshold or alter tramadol metabolism such as:
 - Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (furazolidone, isocarboxazid, linezolid, moclobemide, pargyline, phenelzine, procarbazine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine)
 - Stimulants / Sympathomimetics –phentermine, pseudoephedrine, amphetamines, methylphenidate, caffeine
 - Anti-infective agents- hydroxychloroquine, mefloquine, imipenem, 4th generation cephalosporins, ciprofloxacin. Linezolid, Ivermectin, metronidazole, ketoconazole, voriconazole, antiretrovirals
 - Chemotherapy agents- Busulfan, Chlorambucil, Cytarabine, Doxorubicin, Etoposide, Fluorouracil, Interferon alfa, Methotrexate, Mitoxantrone, Nelarabine, Platinum-based drugs (eg, cisplatin), Vinblastine, Vincristine.
 - Mental Health agents- Antipsychotics (clozapine), Atomoxetine , Bupropion, Buspirone, Lithium, Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), Serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), Tricyclic antidepressants (eg, amoxapine, clomipramine, maprotiline
 - Miscellaneous- Amantadine, diphenhydramine, dextromethorphan, scopolamine, triptans, theophylline, nicotine, isotretinoin, azelastine (nasal), carbamazepine, orphenadrine, cyclobenzaprine, promethazine.
 - a. Yes – Forward for evaluation of medication appropriateness- *Tramadol use, even when taken within the recommended dosage, may cause seizures, especially if taken with serotonergic agents or medications that alter tramadol metabolism.*
 - b. No- Move to question 3

3. Does the member have a history of suicide attempt or suicidal ideation or a mood disorder that is not well controlled?
 - a. Yes – Forward for evaluation of medical appropriateness- *Tramadol has been associated with increased risk for suicide*
 - b. No- Move to question 4

4. Is the member under the age of 18 or a breastfeeding mother?
 - a. Yes – Forward for medical appropriateness evaluation/ Cat 5 denial - In April of 2017, the FDA issued a safety alert for codeine and tramadol, *Children and adolescents younger than 18 years (especially those with certain genetic factors, obesity, or obstructive sleep apnea and other breathing problems) should not use medicines containing these drugs because of increased medical risks, including slowed or difficult breathing and death. The FDA is also recommending against the use of codeine and tramadol medicines in breastfeeding mothers due to possible harm to their infants, including excess sleepiness, serious breathing problems, or death.*
 - b. No – Move to question 5
5. Does the member have a recent history of substance abuse?
 - a. Yes- Forward for medical appropriateness evaluation.
Tramadol carries a risk for abuse and diversion and should be used with caution in members with a substance use disorder.
 - b. No- Move to question 6
6. Is the member being treated for back pain / diagnosis falls on line 351,366 or 407? (Guideline Note 60)
 - a. Yes- Move to question 7
 - b. No- Move to question 8
7. Has member had surgery or an injury or acute flare of back pain that has not responded to treatment with non-opioid alternatives? (such as exercise, NSAIDs, APAP and muscle relaxants)
 - a. Yes – May approve for a maximum of 6 weeks past date of injury or surgery if dosing correct
 - b. No- Deny Cat 5- *Opioids are covered for up to 6 weeks ONLY in cases of acute flare, injury or surgery in cases where NSAIDS, APAP and muscle relaxants have been tried and failed and short acting opioids are prescribed with a plan to keep active- member's condition is chronic and does not meet GL note 60 parameters. OHP will not fund chronic use of opioids for conditions of the back and spine as evidence shows that risks outweigh possible benefits.*
8. Is the medication being prescribed for an FDA approved indication within dosing limits?
Tramadol is approved for management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate (patients for whom alternative treatment options (non-opioid analgesics) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide sufficient management of pain) 50 to 100 mg every 4 to 6 hours prn- NTE 400 mg per day.
 - a. Yes- May approve up to 6 months of therapy as medically appropriate
 - b. No –Deny Cat 3- *Medication is being prescribed outside of FDA approved indications for use.*