

## Schedule 1: The Pregabalin Guidance

To CCGs: The following notice should be distributed to all GP practices which are members of your CCG on or before Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

To NHS Business Services Authority: The following notice should be distributed to all community pharmacies on or before Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN RELATION TO PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING PREGABALIN**

Dear Colleague

Warner-Lambert Company LLC is engaged in a dispute with a number of generic pharmaceutical suppliers regarding pregabalin, which remains on patent for one indication, namely, the treatment of pain. As part of that dispute, the Court has required NHS England to issue this guidance. Our guidance is that, because of Warner-Lambert's patent rights:

1. **Pregabalin should only be prescribed for the treatment of neuropathic pain under the brand name Lyrica® (unless there are clinical contra-indications or other special clinical needs e.g. patient allergic to an excipient, branded product unavailable etc which apply to Lyrica®, when you should not prescribe Lyrica® or pregabalin)**
2. When prescribing pregabalin for the treatment of neuropathic pain to patients you should (so far as reasonably possible):
  - a) prescribe by reference to the brand name Lyrica®; and
  - b) write the prescription with only the brand name "Lyrica", and not the generic name pregabalin or any other generic brand.
3. When prescribing pregabalin for the treatment of anything other than pain, you should continue to prescribe by reference to the generic name pregabalin.

4. When dispensing pregabalin, if you have been told that it is for the treatment of pain, you should ensure, so far as reasonably possible, that only Lyrica®, the branded form of pregabalin, is dispensed. However, when dispensing pregabalin for the treatment of anything other than pain, you are not restricted to dispensing Lyrica®.

To ensure that practitioners are readily able to recall and follow the guidance above, you should consider amending the operation of any electronic prescription system that is within your power or control to include a notice or advice box which uses the following or similar wording:

*“If treating neuropathic pain, prescribe Lyrica (brand) due to patent protection. For all other indications, prescribe generically.”*

We will let you know should this position change. If you have any questions in relation to the prescription of Lyrica® or pregabalin, please contact Dr David Geddes, Head of Primary Care Commissioning, NHS England, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE.

Yours sincerely

NHS England