

Appendix 19 – Letter Suggesting Review of Tramadol Due to Serotonin Syndrome Risk

[Practice name]

[Address]

[Tel]

[Fax]

[Email]

[Date]

[Title/Initial/Surname]

[Patient Address Block]

Dear [Title] [Surname]

Tramadol and Antidepressants

Our records show you are currently being prescribed both Tramadol and an antidepressant. The antidepressant may be prescribed for pain rather than depression.

We have recently been made aware of a potentially serious interaction between Tramadol and certain antidepressants. This interaction can lead to a condition called Serotonin Syndrome which can cause symptoms such as excessive sweating, fast pulse rate, high blood pressure and shaking. In rare circumstances it has contributed to the death of some patients.

At <<**Practice name**>> patient safety is our priority so in view of this recent information we have taken a decision that we need to review your tramadol with the aim of reducing and stopping your Tramadol.

Tramadol should not be stopped abruptly; we will need to discuss a withdrawal timetable with you and possibly the substitution of an alternative pain killer should this be necessary.

Please book an appointment within 28 days of receipt of this letter, as after that period Tramadol will be removed from your medication order list.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank You for your understanding & co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Dr XXX and partners