



# THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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Dear Natalie

## **RE: Proposal to fund Tramadol Sustained Release Tablets**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal. Tramadol has a role in the analgesia pathway for children. The Pharmacist and Therapeutic Special Interest Group of The Paediatric Society has reviewed this proposal. We note the exclusion of appropriate forms of tramadol for children. Neither Tramadol 50mg SR tablets nor Tramadol 100mg/ml drops are included in your proposal.

Tramadol 100mg/ml drops are available for use in hospital settings where they are prescribed for children post-operatively when ibuprofen and codeine are not appropriate options. The drops are then not funded in the community to allow continuity of care. With this proposal, all children under 50kg would not have funded access to tramadol in the community setting.

There is no standard formula available with stability data to formulate a suspension of tramadol for paediatric patients. However the commercial product available as tramadol 100mg/ml drops has prescribing guidelines for children 2-12 years.

We would ask that this commercial formulation along with the 50mg SR tablets be considered for funding from 1 January 2013 so that children can have the same access to a funded form of tramadol as is being proposed for adults.

## **This letter is supported by members of the Pharmacist & Therapeutics Special Interest Group of the Paediatric Society:**

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