

## CEDAC FINAL RECOMMENDATION and REASONS for RECOMMENDATION

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### TRAMADOL HYDROCHLORIDE/ACETAMINOPHEN (Tramacet™ – Janssen-Ortho Inc.)

#### **Description:**

Tramacet™ is a fixed dose combination of tramadol hydrochloride, a synthetic opioid analgesic, and acetaminophen. It is approved for the short term (five days or less) management of acute pain.

#### **Dosage Forms:**

Tablets contain 37.5 mg of tramadol hydrochloride and 325 mg of acetaminophen. The recommended dose of Tramacet™ is one to two tablets every four to six hours, as needed, for pain relief, to a maximum of eight tablets per day.

#### **Recommendation:**

The Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) recommends that Tramacet™ not be listed.

#### **Reasons for the Recommendation:**

1. There is insufficient evidence that Tramacet™ provides a therapeutic advantage over less expensive analgesics for the management of acute pain.

#### **Summary of Committee Considerations:**

The Committee considered a systematic review of published, double blind, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of tramadol monotherapy (oral immediate release formulations) or tramadol/acetaminophen with other oral opiates available in Canada in the treatment of acute or chronic pain in adults. Nine trials met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review, six assessed tramadol monotherapy and three assessed tramadol/acetaminophen. Two RCTs in patients with osteoarthritis reported improved pain relief of tramadol monotherapy compared with pentazocine or dextropropoxyphene, medications that are infrequently used today. There were no significant differences in analgesic efficacy between treatment groups in the other seven RCTs. None of the RCTs reported on patient quality of life.

In addition to the RCTs included for the efficacy evaluation, the Committee reviewed additional studies (seven RCTs and one meta-analysis) to assess harms and tolerability. None of these trials reported statistically significant differences in the rate of withdrawals due to adverse events (WDAE) in favour of tramadol containing arms and two trials reported statistically significant fewer WDAE with comparator drugs (dextropropoxyphene and codeine/acetaminophen).

Tramacet™ costs \$0.64 per tablet, or \$2.55 – \$5.09 per day, which is considerably more than other analgesics such as narcotic/acetaminophen combinations (eg. codeine 30 mg/acetaminophen 300 mg costs \$0.05 per tablet, oxycodone 5 mg/acetaminophen 325 mg costs \$0.13 per tablet) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

**Background:**

CEDAC provides formulary listing recommendations to publicly funded drug plans. Recommendations are based on an evidence-based review of the medication’s effectiveness and safety and an assessment of its cost-effectiveness in comparison to other available treatment options. For example, if a new medication is more expensive than other treatments, the Committee considers whether any advantages of the new medication justify the higher price. If the recommendation is not to list a drug, the Committee has concerns regarding the balance between benefit and harm for the medication, and/or concerns about whether the medication provides good value for public drug plans.