Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Women and Newborn Health Service

ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
Tramadol	
Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Administration	Monitoring	Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Restrictions

Formulary: Restricted

HIGH RISK Medication ⚠

Medication Class

Opioid analgesics

Presentation

Immediate Release Capsule: 50mg

Slow Release Tablet: 50mg, 100mg, 150mg

Oral Liquid: 100mg/mL

Ampoule: 100mg/2mL

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 30°C

Schedule 4 Restricted Medication

Dose

Acute moderate to severe pain

IM/IV:

50 – 100 mg every 4–6 hours when required; maximum 600 mg daily

Oral (Immediate Release):

50 – 100 mg every 4–6 hours when required; maximum 400 mg daily

Oral (Slow Release):

50 – 200 mg every 12 hours; maximum 400 mg daily

Chronic severe pain

Oral (Slow Release):

50–200 mg every 12 hours; maximum 400 mg daily

Post-operative Analgesia

IV:

50 – 100 mg in 50 – 100 mL NaCl 0.9% IV infusion over at least 15 min

Note:

Maximum dose 600mg in 24 hours for inpatients

Maximum dose 400mg in 24 hours at discharge

Maximum dose 300mg in 24 hours if >75 years

Administration

Refer to the Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook for IM and IV administration instructions

Oral

With or without food

Swallowed whole for controlled release formulations

IV Injection

Inject slowly over 2 to 3 minutes. Nausea and vomiting are more common with IV bolus doses >50mg

IV Infusion (preferred parenteral route)

Step 1 Dilution: Dilute with 50 – 100 mL NaCl 0.9% or Glucose 5%

Step 2 Administration: Infuse over at least 15 minutes

Monitoring

Treatment with other drugs may increase the likelihood of serotonin toxicity; avoid combinations or monitor carefully (e.g. antidepressants, ondansetron)

Signs of serotonin toxicity

Hyperreflexia, tremor, clonus, incoordination, change in mental state, shivering, sweating, fever, diarrhoea

See 'Breastfeeding' for monitoring requirements of a baby with a mother taking tramadol while breastfeeding

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative

2nd Trimester: Considered safe*

3rd Trimester: Considered safe*

*Tramadol is considered safe to use in the second and third trimesters when used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible.

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Breastfeeding

Tramadol is considered safe to use at the lowest effective doses for the shortest duration possible during breastfeeding. However, observe the breastfed infant for adverse effects such as sedation, poor feeding or sleeping pattern changes.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Neuraxial Analgesia (including epidural, intrathecal morphine)

Palliative Care

Pain: Acute on chronic pelvic pain management

Pain Management (including labour non-pharmacological)

Restricted Schedule 4 (S4R) and Schedule 8 (S8) Medications

References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Tramadol. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2026 [cited 2026 Apr 8]. Available from: https://amhonline.amh.net.au/

Therapeutic Guidelines. Moderate, acute nociceptive pain. In: eTG complete [Internet]. West Melbourne (Victoria): Therapeutic Guidelines; 2026 [cited 2026 Apr 8]. Available from: https://tgldcdp-tg-org-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/etgAccess

Therapeutic Guidelines. Chronic pain. In: eTG complete [Internet]. West Melbourne (Victoria): Therapeutic Guidelines; 2026 [cited 2026 Apr 8]. Available from: https://tgldcdp-tg-org-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/etgAccess

The Royal Women's Hospital. Tramadol. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2016 [cited 2026 Apr 8]. Available from: https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/

AusDI [Internet]. St Leonards (NSW): Health Communication Network; c2026. Tramal; [updated 2025 Sep 23; cited 2026 Apr 8]. Available from: https://ausdi-hcn-com-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/productInformation.hcn?file=p01069

Keywords	Tramadol, pain, analgesia, opioid, acute pain, chronic pain				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH Pharmacy Department				
Version Info:	5.0				
Date First Issued:	01/05/2015	Last Reviewed:	08/04/2026	Review Date:	April 2031
Endorsed by:	Medicines and Therapeutics Committee			Date:	02/06/2026
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	☒ Std 1: Clinical Governance ☐ Std 2: Partnering with Consumers ☐ Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection ☒ Std 4: Medication Safety			☐ Std 5: Comprehensive Care ☐ Std 6: Communicating for Safety ☐ Std 7: Blood Management ☐ Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration	
Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. Access the current version from WNHS HealthPoint.					

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© Women and Newborn Health Service 2026

Copyright of this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.