

Forth Valley Guideline for Treatment of Neuropathic Pain*

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This guidance EXCLUDES Trigeminal Neuralgia (use Carbamazepine first line)

STEP ONE

Confirm diagnosis by clinical criteria and exclude reversible causes



STEP TWO

AMITRIPTYLINE 10mg nocte (Unlicensed)

(£11.76 per year)

AVOID if history of cardiac arryhthmias or troublesome urinary retention - move to step 3 and STOP if side effects are troublesome (see BNF for full details)

If tolerated increase weekly until effective. Reassess after 4 weeks or maximal dose. (maximal dose 75mg = £23.64 per year)

Discontinue if inadequate response after 2 months.

In patients with purely diabetic neuropathy consider **Duloxetine** 60mg once daily. (£332.64 per year)



STEP THREE

Add in **GABAPENTIN** capsules

300mg once daily for 4 - 7 days then 300mg BD for 4 - 7 days then 300mg TID (£115.61 per year)

Can titrate slower with low dose 100mg if clinically appropriate eg elderly, renal impariment (see BNF) and difficulty in taking medicines

Assess regularly - if required increase to MAX 600mg TID by slow titration eg 300mg added weekly

Note: always use capsules rather than tablets

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If troublesome side effects OR no response to maximal dose gabapentin

STEP FOUR

Reduce Gabapentin gradually and stop, then start Pregabalin 75mg once daily for 3 - 7 days 75mg BD for 3 - 7 days then 150mg BD (£772.80 per year)

Can titrate slower or with lower dose if clinically appropriate eg elderly, renal impairment (see BNF) and difficulty in taking medicines

Assess benefit / side effects

If appropriate may titrate gradually to max of 300mg BD

STOP IF INSUFFICIENT BENEFIT WITHIN 8 WEEKS

SMC accepted **ONLY** for 3rd line treatment in peripheral neuropathic pain

Note: always prescribe in BD doses and optimise dose/caps strength to alllow single capsule per dose where possible eg. 150mg caps BD (£772.80 per year) 2 x 75mg caps BD (£1,545.60 per year)

STEP FIVE

If pain remains uncontrolled or deterioration then...

Reconsider diagnosis

Consider referral to FV Chronic Pain Service (see SID)

Neuropathic pain* - Pain caused by a lesion or disease of the somatosensory nervous system

(International Association for the Study of Pain July 2011) Ref. BNF, NICE, SIGN 116, prices based on MIMS November 2011 and Scottish Drug Tariff November 2011 Version 4 30/11/11