Implementation of a Tapentadol Review SOP to Improve Prescribing and Patient Safety

EAFed
EAST ANTRIM FEDERATION

Introduction

- NI prescribes more Tapentadol per head of population than other UK regions
- Northern LCG area 2nd highest in NI
- Northern Interface Group Action Plan 2022-23
- East Antrim Action Plan 2022-23

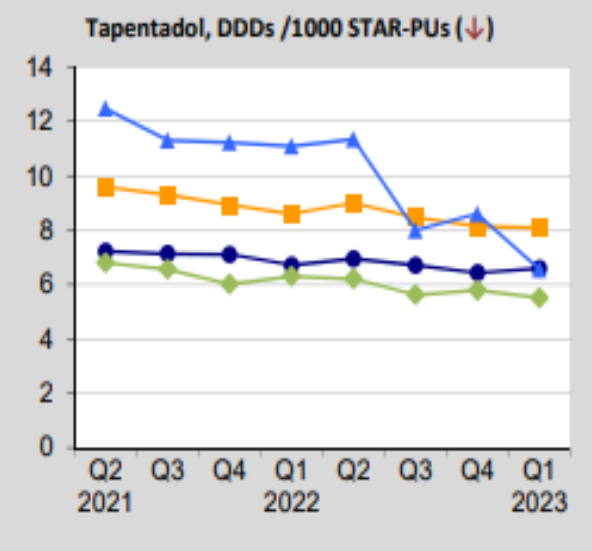
Objectives

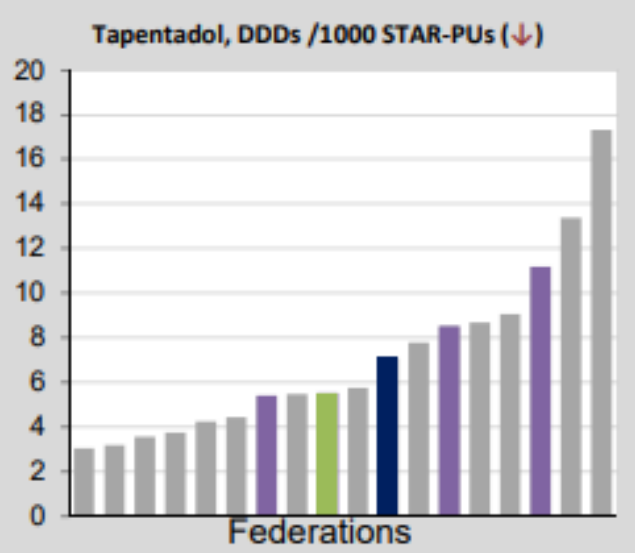
- Enable the safe and effective prescribing of Tapentadol across the whole EA Federation
- Improve compliance with the NI Formulary
- Develop and implement an SOP for Tapentadol Review
- Reduce the amount of Tapentadol prescribed and highlight use of morphine first line
- Ensure patients on Tapentadol are not prescribed other opiates
- Ensure indication recorded

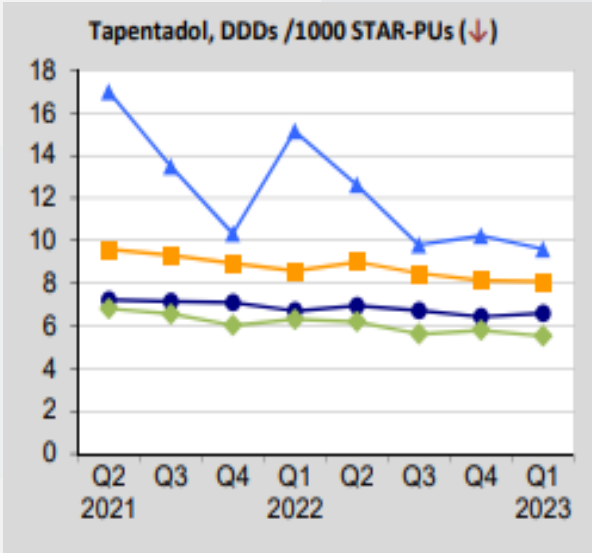
Audit

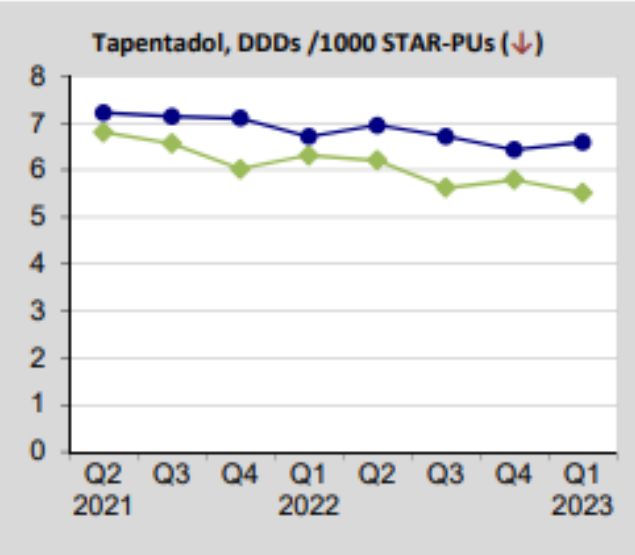
- GPPs reviewed patients currently prescribed Tapentadol using SOP
- Audit criteria was set for review of patients
- Data collected on indication, previous meds trialled etc
- Prioritised for review
  - Co-prescribed other opioid, initiated by GP, not had review in last 6 months, prescribed IR, pts not previously tried morphine
- Tapentadol to morphine switching/reduction guide used from SOP
- Patient information leaflet given
- Signposting to pain information sources

Positive Outcomes









East Antrim Federation Results

- 10.6% overall reduction in no. of patients prescribed Tapentadol
- 6.2% reduction in patients prescribed a second opioid
- Increase by 28.5% no. of patients with a noted indication for their Tapentadol
- Increase in no. of patients with a previous trial of morphine by 13.4%
- SOP cascaded to regional SPPG pain team for ratification

Risk stratification of pain meds

- Practice/Partner/GPP agreement
- High Risk Drug searches (EMIS search), includes benzos, gabapentinoids. Discuss those at highest risk first and make a practice plan
- Target patients on multiple agents e.g Tramadol & Codeine
- Or choose one drug to target first – e.g. Fentanyl/Tapentadol (25mcg Fentanyl patch=75mg MST)
- Target patients intermittently ordering pain meds for reduction.
- Equivalent morphine >120mg N.B Transtec 52.5= 135mg MST, Fentanyl 50mcg = 150mg

Resources

- Tapentadol SOP
- Other opioid review tools SPS link- Bulletin 336. Reducing opioid prescribing in chronic pain | PrescQIPP C.I.C
- High dose opioids audits | PrescQIPP C.I.C
- Pain toolkit
- Asking patients to keep a pain diary
- Better days pain support programme
- Other info - Long-term pain - DOH/HSCNI Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG)
- Pain calculator- Pain Management Opioid Dose Converter (paindata.org)