

## **CONTROLLED DRUG REGULATION CHANGES TO TRAMADOL, ZOPICLONE AND ZALEPLON**

The following legislative changes will come into force from **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**:

- Tramadol will become a Schedule 3 CD, but will be exempt from Safe Custody Regulations.
- Zopiclone and Zaleplon will become Schedule 4, part 1 CDs

### **HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE WAY I PRESCRIBE AT SELDOC?**

#### **TRAMADOL**

When writing a prescription for tramadol, please:

1. **State the quantity in words and figures**
2. **Prescribe only enough to cover patients till they can gain access to a GP practice (usually the next working day).**
3. **Always state a dose – i.e. don't write take as directed.**
4. **Don't FAX a prescription containing tramadol.**

#### **ZOPICLONE and ZALEPLON**

The main change is that no more than 28 day's supply can be issued on one prescription. We would normally expect GPs to issue just enough to last till the next working day in line with SELDOC's prescribing policy

**From 10<sup>th</sup> June, you will be breaking the Law by not adhering to these requirements.**



*Patients may be inconvenienced if they go to the pharmacy only to have their prescription for TRAMADOL sent back to the SELDOC GP for alterations. Not to mention the implications for the efficiency of SELDOC*