There is little evidence to suggest that tramadol is more effective or better tolerated than the other opioids at Step 2 of the analgesic ladder.

Naloxone will not reverse the potentially serious non-opioid effects of tramadol.

Tramadol-related deaths in England and Wales increased from 83 in 2008 to 175 in 2012.

National Poisons Information Service data for 2012-13 show that 51 of the 691 telephone enquiries regarding tramadol originated in Wales.

A National Prescribing Indicator for tramadol has been developed for 2014-15 to promote optimal prescribing in Wales.