



## Uniform Formulary Medical Necessity Criteria for Tramadol Extended Release (Ultram ER and Ryzolt)

**Drug Class** – Narcotic Analgesics

**Background** – After evaluating the relative clinical and cost effectiveness of medications in this class (the Narcotic Analgesics), the DoD P&T Committee recommended that Ultram ER and Ryzolt be designated as non-formulary. This recommendation has been approved by the Director, TMA.

**Effective Date:** 14 April 2010

Patients currently using a nonformulary narcotic analgesic may wish to ask their doctor to consider a formulary alternative.

### Uniform Formulary Status, Cost Shares, and Therapeutic Alternatives for Narcotic Analgesics

Uniform Formulary Status	Medication	MTF (up to a 90 day supply)	TMOP (up to a 90 day supply)	Retail (up to a 30-day supply)
Non-Formulary (Tier 3)	Ultram ER Ryzolt	Not available <sup>2</sup>	Non-Formulary cost share applies	Non-Formulary cost share applies
Formulary: Brand Name (Tier 2)	Actiq Avinza Fentora Kadian Opana, Opana ER Oxycontin	\$0	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies
Formulary: Generic (Tier 1)	Butorphanol/codeine codeine with APAP, ASA, or ASA/carisoprodol codeine / caffeine / butalbital with APAP or ASA dihydrocodeine / caffeine with APAP or ASA fentanyl transdermal patch hydrocodone / APAP hydromorphone levorphanol meperidine methadone morphine products (other than Avinza and Kadian) nalbuphine	\$0	Generic cost share applies	Generic cost share applies

opium tincture opium/belladonna alkaloids (suppositories) Oxycodone combinations with APAP or ASA pentazocine / APAP pentazocine/naloxone propoxyphene propoxyphene with APAP or ASA/caffeine tramadol / APAP			
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ER = extended release

1. Active duty cost share always \$0 in all points of service for all three tiers; Active duty cost share always \$0 in all points of service for all three tiers; TRICARE does not cover non-formulary medications for active duty service members unless they are determined to be medically necessary.
2. MTFs will be able to fill non-formulary requests for non-formulary medications only if both of the following conditions are met: 1) a MTF provider writes the prescription, and 2) medical necessity is established for the non-formulary medication. MTFs may (but are not required to) fill a prescription for a non-formulary medication written by a non-MTF provider to whom the patient was referred, as long as medical necessity has been established.
3. Use of narcotic analgesic varies widely among products. The most reasonable formulary alternative for Ultram ER within this medication class is considered to be tramadol immediate release (Ultram, generics).

### Medical Necessity Criteria

The non-formulary cost share for Ultram ER or Ryzolt may be reduced to the formulary cost share if the patient meets any of the following criteria:

1. Use of tramadol immediate release is contraindicated (e.g., due to hypersensitivity to a dye or other inert ingredient) and treatment with Ultram ER or Ryzolt is not contraindicated.
2. The patient previously responded to Ultram ER or Ryzolt and changing to tramadol immediate release would incur unacceptable clinical risk (e.g., loss of pain control).

Medical necessity criteria for Ultram ER recommended by the DoD Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee at the Feb 2007 meeting and approved by the Director, TMA on 2 May 2007. Medical necessity criteria for Ryzolt recommended by the DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at the November 2009 meeting and approved by the Director, TMA on 3 February, 2010. For more information, please see the February 2007 and November, 2009 [DoD P&T Committee minutes](#).

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