

# WY- DUR

## Wyoming Drug Utilization Review Board

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Dear Prescriber:

Our records show that you have prescribed Gabitril® (tiagabine HCl). Post-marketing reports have shown that Gabitril® has been associated with new onset seizures and status epilepticus in patients without epilepsy. These seizures have typically occurred soon after the initiation of treatment or a dosage increase, although there are exceptions to this.<sup>1</sup>

The only FDA approved indication for Gabitril® is the adjunctive treatment of partial seizures in adults and children 12 years and older.<sup>2</sup> Because of this, Gabitril® label dosing is based on the assumption that patients are taking it with other anticonvulsants for seizure control. These other anticonvulsants may increase the metabolism of Gabitril. This is one proposed mechanism for why patients on Gabitril alone are seeing new-onset seizures and status epilepticus. Additionally, drug interactions with concomitant medications may lower the seizure threshold of Gabitril®. These drug interactions may include antidepressants, stimulants, antipsychotics or opioids.<sup>3</sup>

The off-label use of Gabitril® is discouraged because of this potential increased risk of seizures or status epilepticus.<sup>1</sup>

Thank you for your assistance in caring for these patients and for your consideration of this information. Please do not hesitate to contact the Wyoming DUR Program or the Department of Health if you have comments, concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

*Debra S. Devereaux*

Debra S. Devereaux, M.B.A., R.Ph.  
Wyoming DUR Manager

### References

1. FDA Public Health Advisory seizures in patients without epilepsy being treated with Gabitril (tiagabine).
2. Gabitril® (tiagabine hydrochloride) tablets [product information]. West Chester, PA: Cephalon, Inc, February 2005.
3. Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter 2005;21(4):210406.