

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medication supply disruption 2023: Information for patients and families

What is the current situation?

Currently, there are problems with the availability and supply of some of the medication used to treat ADHD. This is a national problem. There are some supplies of medication, but availability is changing every day.

Why is this happening?

There are several reasons contributing to the supply disruption, including:

- An increase in demand for medication to manage ADHD.
- A change in the companies who produce and supply the medication.

This has led to difficulties in meeting the supply needs of patients.

How long is this likely to be the case?

It is *expected* that supply issues will resolve at various dates between October and December 2023.

Which medicines are affected?

The medicines affected are:

- Methylphenidate
- Lisdexamfetamine
- Atomoxetine
- Guanfacine

There are some supplies of these medications but their availability is changing daily (both coming into stock and going out of stock).

What should I do as a patient, parent or carer?

We are working hard to manage this supply disruption, but there are some steps that you can take to help us minimise the effect on you or your child:

1. Please only order your prescription when you have 7 – 10 days of your medicine left. It is important not to stockpile medicines, and your clinician will not be able to issue your prescription any earlier.
2. Stocks of medication will vary between community pharmacies and you may need to try several pharmacies. If your usual community pharmacy is not able to supply your medication, please try calling or visiting other local pharmacies. Pharmacy contact details can be found via <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy>.
3. Be prepared that your medicine may change but this will be clearly communicated to you.

What will happen if the medication I or my child is taking is not available?

If your medication is a regular repeat from your GP, please contact your GP practice.

If you are receiving prescriptions from a specialist service, please contact the service.

Specialist team refers to:

- Adult ADHD service;
- Child development centre;
- Children services or child and adolescent mental health team, e.g. The Lighthouse Centre.

If you or your child are with a specialist team, their contact details will be on your appointment letter.

Your GP or member of your specialist team will talk to you about your options if you need to change medication or medication strength.

Specialist services, GPs and community pharmacies are working together to ensure the disruption to the supply of ADHD medication affects patients as little as possible.

Where can I go for further information?

Your community pharmacist can help you if you or your child receive medicine which looks different compared to usual.

Please be assured that we recognise the role these medications play in you or your child’s well-being, and we are actively monitoring the situation and working locally to provide updates. Please liaise with community pharmacies for stock availability.

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