

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Medication Availability and Supply Disruption Update: 11th Oct 2024

This document is an update of the document published on the 14th of June 2024.

A [National Patient Safety Alert \(NatPSA\)](#) on the shortage of methylphenidate prolonged-release capsules and tablets, lisdexamfetamine capsules, and guanfacine prolonged-release tablets was issued over a year ago on 27 September 2023. This supply shortage was proposed at the time to last a few months, and we were expecting return to normal service at the beginning of this year.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case and **supply issues continue for methylphenidate modified release tablets. (Details on [second page](#) including anticipated return date for stock)**. The products out of supply and anticipated return dates seem to change weekly. Therefore if you need to know the latest availability then please check [SPS](#) .

Good news is supply issues have been resolved for the other ADHD medicines (atomoxetine, dexamfetamine, guanfacine and lisdexamfetamine, methylphenidate immediate release tablets and methylphenidate modified release [capsules](#)). (Brand names and strengths in section on last page)

Key Messages /Summary

- Update on stock availability as per [SPS](#) (last updated by SPS on 9/10/24).
- Restrictions placed on new patient initiations for guanfacine, lisdexamfetamine and atomoxetine have been lifted and service providers should resume prescribing for new and deferred patients. This includes prescribing for patients who have seen a private provider, if you have agreed to the shared care for this provider.
- NHS Surrey Heartlands published detailed guidelines on [26/01/2024](#). This document has useful information applicable to medicines out of stock.



ADHD Medication
Shortage -NHS Surrey

Update from Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

SABP adult services will be starting or restarting patients for ADHD medication only if stock is available. SABP children's services will be focusing on medication reviews of existing patients. They will **only be starting new initiations where there is an immediate clinical need**. GP practices **may accept requests for shared care from SABP for stable patients**. Continuing to sign up to shared care arrangements gives the potential for the specialist teams to start new ADHD medication initiations for those waiting.

Lisdexamfetamine: SABP adult ADHD services will now consider initiating new and deferred patients for lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse[®] and Elvanse[®] Adult) capsules.

Guanfacine: People prescribed guanfacine should continue the currently prescribed dose and should not revert to a previously prescribed dose without clinical advice.

Developed in collaboration with ICS Medicine Management Teams of NHS England Southeast Area Region on 9/10/23. Adapted for NHS Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System including Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. (1st issued 12/10/23, 2nd Update on 05/12/23. 3rd Update on 26/01/24, 4th Update on 06/03/24, 5th Update on 14/06/24, Current update 11/10/24)

Current Stock Shortages (10/10/24)

Atomoxetine Oral Solution: Strattera® 4mg/ml oral solution is currently in limited supply. Restoration of full supply is anticipated for 31st October 2024

- Please note atomoxetine capsules should not be opened due to the risk of ocular irritancy. If oral solution is not available and the capsules are not suitable, then please consider an alternative therapy.

Methylphenidate modified release tablets: These are in limited supply and intermittent regional supply disruptions are expected to continue until normal resupply resumes

Medication by Brand Name	Strengths Available	Supply Shortages (strengths not available) and Anticipated Return Date
Affened® XL	18 mg	27 mg, 36 mg & 54 mg (31/10/24)
Concerta® XL	27 mg	18 mg (18/10/24), 36 mg (15/11/24) & 54 mg (25/10/24) If additional stock is required on an emergency/urgent basis, the company hold a small quantity which can be accessed by community pharmacists. They will be required to contact Janssen at 0800 731 8450 to initiate the process for obtaining a supply. Janssen will require a copy of the prescription and other documentation from the pharmacy.
Delmosart® PR		18 mg, 27 mg (unknown return date for both) 36mg, 54 mg (15/11/24)
Matoride® XL	18 mg, 54 mg	36 mg (31/10/24), (27 mg is not manufactured)
Xaggitin® XL		18 mg (03/01/25), 27mg (18/10/24), 36 mg (1/11/24), 54mg (15/11/24)
Xenidate® XL		18 mg (17/01/25), 27 mg, 36 mg, 54 mg (22/11/24)

All these brands of methylphenidate m/r tablets are bioequivalent and are interchangeable.

Message from Community Pharmacy: *“Stock shortages are still high for the methylphenidate m/r tablets that are available. This is because as soon as stock is received it is dispensed and given out to patients who are already waiting.”*

Reminder to clinicians that they can prescribe methylphenidate modified release tablets as generic.

Please ensure methylphenidate modified-release tablets are prescribed on a separate prescription (FP10) or as a single item on an electronic prescription.

This electronic prescription should **not** be sent to a nominated pharmacy unless the clinician is aware that they have stock. Therefore, please ensure your patient is aware the prescription has been written and is available on the spine. Please provide the patient with the token number (message by Accurx) for the prescription. Ask patients to check stock availability with the pharmacy. If stock is available, then the patient needs to provide the token number* to the pharmacy. The pharmacy can then download the prescription from the spine to dispense.

Pharmacy can always return prescriptions to the spine if they have downloaded and then realise, they do not have stock. Please inform the patient of the token number of the prescription so that they can obtain from another pharmacy.

*If patients have lost their token number, then the pharmacy should be able to find the prescription using the patient’s NHS number and date of birth.

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Stock Shortages Resolved (10/10/24):

Atomoxetine capsules

- 10 mg, 18 mg, 25 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg, 100 mg capsules
- Note solution is in short supply (see above)

Dexamfetamine tablets

- Amfexa® 5mg, 10mg, 20mg tablets
- Dexamfetamine 5mg tablets (generic)

Guanfacine modified-release tablets

- Intuniv® 1 mg, 2mg, 3 mg, 4mg modified-release tablets

Lisdexamfetamine capsules

- Elvanse® 20 mg, 30 mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg, 70 mg capsules
- Elvanse Adult® 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 50 mg, 60 mg, 70 mg capsules

Methylphenidate immediate release tablets

- Medikinet® 5mg, 10mg, 20mg immediate release tablets
- Ritalin® 10mg immediate release tablets
- Tranquilyn® 5mg, 10mg, 20mg immediate release tablets

Methylphenidate modified release capsules

- Equasym® XL 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg modified release capsules
- Medikinet® XL 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 50 mg, 60 mg modified release capsules
- Meflynate® XL 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40mg, 60mg modified release capsules
- Metyrol® XL 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40mg, 60mg modified release capsules

Methylphenidate modified release tablets – The majority are **not** available or in very limited supply.
See table above for products available and out of stock products.

Contacts

For Adult ADHD services - rx.adhdsurrey@nhs.net (preferred method)
Telephone (9am-12noon, M-F, no answer machine facility) 01372 216490.

For Children and Young People's ADHD services – neurodevworkrequests@sabp.nhs.uk
(Response within 72 hours) or: 01372 216555 (M-F 9-12.30)

Developmental Paediatricians

NE HANTS (based in Frimley): csh.NEHantsAdminTheta@nhs.net

SE (based in Redhill): csh.devpaedseastsurrey@nhs.net

SW (based in Guildford): rx.swadminjarvis@nhs.net

NW: csh.NWAdminGWP@nhs.net

Unither (Chertsey): csh.nwadminps@nhs.net

NHS Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board Contact:

- Please contact your ICB Primary Care Pharmacist or Technician for your practice initially
- For further advice or information then please contact Jayesh Shah, Lead Primary Care Pharmacist for Mental Health on 0300 561 1402 if urgent or otherwise by email on jayeshshah@nhs.net