

Shortage of methylphenidate prolonged-release capsules and tablets, lisdexamfetamine capsules, and guanfacine prolonged-release tablets – advice for primary care prescribers

Background

A National Patient Safety Alert (NPSA) was issued on the 27th of September 2023 for organisations involved in prescribing and dispensing methylphenidate (Equasym[®] XL) capsules, methylphenidate (Xaggitin XL[®], Concerta XL[®], Xenidate XL[®]) prolonged-release tablets, lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse[®]) capsules, and guanfacine (Intuniv[®]) prolonged-release tablets. In Doncaster, all these medications fall under shared care for adults and children, and so the prescribing takes place in primary care.

The supply disruption is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and increased global demand. Other ADHD products remain available, but stocks are not sufficient to meet the increased demand caused by other shortages.

Anticipated re-supply dates provided by SPS supply tool

The supply disruptions are expected to resolve at various dates between October and December 2023. These are the expected re-supply dates (this is accurate as of 10.10.23):

| Medication | Anticipated re-supply date |
|---|----------------------------|
| Methylphenidate modified-release tablets | |
| Xenidate XL [®] 27mg tablets | 31 October 2023 |
| Xaggitin XL [®] 18mg tablets | 1 February 2024 |
| Xaggitin XL [®] 36mg tablets | 1 February 2024 |
| Methylphenidate modified-release capsules (Equasym XL[®]) | |
| Equasym XL [®] 10mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 20 October 2023 |
| Equasym XL [®] 20mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 20 October 2023 |
| Equasym XL [®] 30mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 27 November 2023 |
| Lisdexamfetamine capsules (Elvanse[®]) | |
| Elvanse [®] 50mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 13 October 2023 |
| Elvanse [®] 60mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 20 October 2023 |
| Elvanse [®] 70mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 27 October 2023 |
| Elvanse [®] Adult 30mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 3 November 2023 |
| Elvanse [®] Adult 50mg capsules (Takeda UK Ltd) | 20 October 2023 |
| Guanfacine modified-release tablets (Intuniv[®]) | |
| Intuniv [®] 1mg modified-release tablets (Takeda UK Ltd) | 4 December 2023 |
| Intuniv [®] 2mg modified-release tablets (Takeda UK Ltd) | 4 December 2023 |
| Intuniv [®] 3mg modified-release tablets (Takeda UK Ltd) | 4 December 2023 |
| Intuniv [®] 4mg modified-release tablets (Takeda UK Ltd) | 20 November 2023 |

Actions required by primary care

The actions that are required by primary care are as follows:

- Do not initiate new patients on products affected by this shortage until the supply issues resolve.

- Identify all patients currently prescribed these products, and make contact with patients to establish how much supply they have remaining.
- Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, contact community pharmacies, hospital pharmacy departments, or other dispensing pharmacy services, to establish availability of supply; and contact patient's specialist team for advice on management options if the product cannot be sourced.
- Another option is to consider a temporary switch to a bioequivalent brand (if applicable) until stock issues resolve if it is in the patient's best interest to continue with treatment.

Brand switch options

The table below gives switch options to support until stock issues resolve:

| Preparations currently affected by shortage | Switch options |
|--|---|
| Methylphenidate (Xaggitin XL, Xenidate XL) | These brands are all interchangeable as they are considered bioequivalent: Affenid XL Concerta XL Delmosart XL Matoride XL Xaggitin XL Xenidate XL |
| Methylphenidate (Equasym XL®) | No bioequivalent available. Seek advice from ADHD clinic |
| Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse®) | No bioequivalent available. Lisdexamfetamine is a prodrug of dexamfetamine, and so patients may be switched to dexamfetamine in the event of unavailability. There is a risk of abuse or diversion with this, and as such advice should be sought from the ADHD clinic. |
| Guanfacine (Intuniv®) | No bioequivalent available. Seek advice from ADHD clinic. Guanfacine should not be stopped abruptly because of the risk of rebound hypertension. |

All strengths of Affenid XL®, Concerta XL® and Delmosart XL® are currently available as of 10.10.23.

Any change in brand should be clearly communicated to the patient (and/or guardian/carer). They should be advised to report any changes such as side-effects or changes in symptom control.

If patients for any reason go without treatment, re-titration may be required.

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References

<https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103238>

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/tools/medicines-supply-tool/>

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/prescribing-available-medicines-to-treat-adhd/>

South London and Maudsley NHSFT ADHD Medicines Shortage Notification