

Update on supply of medicines for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

25 January 2024

Medicine shortages continue to be a feature of both the global and the Irish markets. There have been a number of recent interruptions in the supply of medicines for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). We recognise that medicine shortages can be challenging for patients, carers, healthcare professionals and their teams. Therefore, we wish to outline the current position and the ongoing coordinated response to minimise impact while supply stabilises.

What medicines have been impacted?

The supply of a number ADHD medicines has been affected at various times in 2023 and early 2024. These include medicines containing the following active ingredients:

- *guanfacine*
- *atomoxetine*
- *lisdexamfetamine dimesylate*
- *methylphenidate*

What is the current position?

There are medicines available across all active ingredients. For some products, while an individual strength may be in short supply, suitable alternatives should be available. In some cases, this may include medicines sourced from other markets via appropriately authorised wholesalers.

What actions are being taken to mitigate the impact of shortages?

The Department of Health, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) are actively working with stakeholders, including the pharmaceutical industry, wholesalers, and the medical and pharmacy regulators, to monitor the supply of these medicines to Ireland. Where at all possible, we are focused on pre-empting and responding to any potential impacts on medicines supply. Where a shortage cannot be prevented, we will aim to provide useful information to healthcare professionals and patients.

The following measures are ongoing:

- National stocks of all the medicines listed above are subject to close monitoring and assessment at wholesale level.
- Daily updates on notified shortages are routinely published on the HPRA website.
- To ensure continuity of care, the HPRA remains open to regulatory flexibilities and has actively engaged with suppliers in this context.
- The HSE National Clinical Programme for Mental Health is being kept informed of the current position and will engage directly with relevant specialists as required.



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Why have there been shortages of ADHD medicines recently?

The shortages are due mainly to increased global demand and manufacturing related delays. Countries across Europe and elsewhere are also experiencing shortages. Where demand for any product increases it can require some time for the supply chain to react. As a result, we will need to continue to monitor the situation carefully in the coming months while supply stabilises.

What is the advice for patients?

If the medicine you, or someone in your care, has been taking is not available, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. If an appropriate medicine is not available to your pharmacist, your doctor may decide to prescribe you an alternative or similar medication. This will help ensure continuity of treatment.

Where can you find current information on medicine shortages?

The HPRA [website](#) includes an up-to date list of medicines shortages impacting the Irish market. The information aims to help keep patients and healthcare professionals informed of current and resolved shortages.

This update has been issued through the collaboration of the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), Department of Health, Health Service Executive (HSE), Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and Medical Council Ireland.

