

## Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse® & Elvanse Adult®) capsules – supply issues

Supply issues with various strengths of lisdexamfetamine capsules (Elvanse® & Elvanse Adult®) have been identified, full details of products affected and dates are included below.

### Prescribing in NHS Grampian

601 patients have been identified as being prescribed lisdexamfetamine within NHS Grampian (ePrescribed data. May 2023 – August 2023, run 26/09/23)

### Stock information & availability

- Elvanse® and Elvanse Adult® are the only brand of licensed lisdexamfetamine available in the UK.
- Resupply dates are dependent on strength of medication, ranging from early October to early December (see below table taken from SPS, 28/09/23).
- Not all strengths are currently out of stock i.e. there has been advance warning given of dates where stock will go out (see below table taken from SPS, 28/09/23).
- Unlicensed imports may be available, however information on lead times is not available.

<b>Elvanse® &amp; Elvanse Adult® availability dates</b>				
<b>Product</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Currently out of stock</b>	<b>Anticipated date of out of stock</b>	<b>Anticipated re-supply date</b>
Elvanse®	20mg	No - future OOS	06 November 2023	01 December 2023
Elvanse®	30mg	No - future OOS	09 October 2023	27 November 2023
Elvanse®	40mg	No - future OOS	09 October 2023	11 December 2023
Elvanse®	50mg	Yes	Currently OOS	13 October 2023
Elvanse®	60mg	Yes	Currently OOS	20 October 2023
Elvanse®	70mg	Yes	Currently OOS	27 October 2023
Elvanse Adult®	30mg	Yes	Currently OOS	03 November 2023
Elvanse Adult®	50mg	Yes	Currently OOS	03 November 2023
Elvanse Adult®	70mg	Yes	Currently OOS	27 October 2023

### **Actions for community pharmacy**

- Share this information with all relevant staff.
- Be alert to ongoing supply issues, and where a prescription for the affected medication is presented ascertain patient's personal stock levels to assess when further medication will be required.
- Where stocks are sufficient to cover duration of supply issues, advise patient of widespread stock shortage and provide information to patient on when they can expect further supplies to be made.
- Consider making part supplies, when appropriate, to manage demand until stock returns (giving consideration to re-supply dates above).
- When patient's personal supplies and community pharmacy stocks are assessed as not sufficient to cover until issues are resolved (see dates in table above):
  - Consider if other strengths of Elvanse<sup>®</sup> & Elvanse Adult<sup>®</sup> are available.
  - Consider use of Elvanse<sup>®</sup> off-label for adults, and Elvanse Adult<sup>®</sup> off-label for children if this facilitates ongoing supplies.
  - Contact the patient's GP practice with information on what strengths/preparations are available and to discuss if it is appropriate for a prescription for an alternative strength/preparation to be provided.
  - If sufficient supplies of medication cannot be procured then contact the patient's GP practice for advice.
  - Advise patient/carer of ongoing issues and actions being taken to resolve.
- Patients/carer should not be advised to contact GP directly, it is expected the communications relating to this issue are dealt with via community pharmacy – GP practice/pharmacotherapy communication route.
- Patients/carers should not be advised to contact or travel to other community pharmacies looking for stocks – this is widespread issue and multiple patients contacting/attending pharmacies can result in an unnecessary increase in workload.

### **Actions for primary care**

- No proactive switching of patients should be undertaken owing to variable dates for stock being both out of stock and returning. As such, patients should be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- As we understand this to be a short-term issue, patient personal stock and stock within the community pharmacy network may mean that not all patients will require an intervention. No actions should be taken in advance of patients making repeat requests for medication or when patients have sufficient supplies to ensure no break in treatment.
- Where a patient is flagged as not having enough medication to cover the duration of supply issue, work alongside the patient's community pharmacy (see note above) and other local pharmacies to explore if alternative strengths of Elvanse<sup>®</sup> or Elvanse Adult<sup>®</sup> are available to cover for the duration of the supply issues.
- Planned omissions of Elvanse<sup>®</sup> treatment can be suggested to patients/parents e.g. only taking doses on days when the patient attends school/University/work and omitting doses during holiday periods/weekends. Whilst this is not ideal it will prolong their supply.

*This information has been produced in collaboration with CAMHS, CCH and Adult Mental Health services.*

- If Elvanse<sup>®</sup> or Elvanse Adult<sup>®</sup> of a **lower** strength than that which the patient usually takes can be sourced, then this can be provided to the patient.
  - The patient should take one Elvanse<sup>®</sup> capsule daily only i.e. we do not advise combining lower strength capsules to maintain their usual dose (this would exacerbate shortages and lead to inequity in access of available stock).
  - Although lowering the dose is not ideal, as ADHD symptoms may not be as well-controlled at the lower dose, it may provide some symptom control.
  - Patients/carers should be counselled on any changes to their prescription and should be made aware that the lower alternative strength is a substitute for the duration of the supply issues only.
- Secondary care have the same stock limitations as primary care with these medications so should not be contacted relating to ongoing supplies of medicines.
- The supply issue is widespread and across other ADHD medications too, leaving very few options for switching a patient from Elvanse<sup>®</sup>. Furthermore, switching from Elvanse<sup>®</sup> to another stimulant is not always a helpful or appropriate action to manage a short-term supply issue.
- The specialist services will be managing a large volume of queries, in addition delivering care to other patients. As such, please only contact the specialist service for advice if the above actions have been undertaken and significant clinical concern remains. Where additional support is needed in the management of these patients, the recommending specialist service can be contacted for advice.
- Where the recommendation to prescribe was from out with the NHS (i.e. private recommendation and GP has assumed clinical responsibility for prescribing), queries should not be directed to specialist as these patients are not under the care of an NHS specialist service. If necessary, patients should be directed back to their private provider.

#### **Actions for specialist services (Adult Mental Health, CAMHS, CCH)**

- Do not start new patients on ADHD medications until the supply issues have been resolved.
- When contacted for advice regarding a specific patient, confirm that the above actions have been undertaken by community pharmacy and primary care, before responding with advice and a plan that is appropriate to the clinical situation in the context of the widespread shortages.
- Consider whether it is appropriate to recommend a switch to another stimulant preparation in the short-term e.g. standard-release dexamfetamine or potentially another stimulant.
- For each patient who has a scheduled review of their ADHD medication by their specialist service during the period of shortage, the specialist should:
  - Inform them of the shortage and anticipated resupply dates,
  - Make a plan appropriate to clinical need and situation, and in the context of the widespread shortages.

October 2023

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### **Further information**

- [Shortage of Lisdexamfetamine \(Elvanse\) capsules – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#) (NHS email address and log on required)
- [Guidance For The Management Of Medicine Shortages Within NHS Grampian](#)