



Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00111/24

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Member of the Senedd for Rhondda

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Dear Buffy,

Thank you for your email about a shortage of lisdexamfetamine and the issues faced by your constituent with the process for requesting repeat prescriptions.

The NHS can occasionally experience disruption to the supply of a medicine. The continuity of supply of medicines to the UK is a reserved matter and is the responsibility of the UK Government, however when shortages occur Welsh Government officials work closely with their counterparts in the UK Government, manufacturers, wholesalers, prescribers and pharmacies to mitigate the effect of any disruption.

Any disruption to the supply of a medicine is concerning to those people who need to take it and the clinicians overseeing their care. There are current supply disruptions affecting a number of medicines used for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). However, we understand supplies of Elvanse® 30mg are back in stock at wholesalers and Elvanse® Adult 30mg is expected to be back in stock this month.

Although the supply position of several other ADHD medicines is expected to improve over the coming months, the supply of Elvanse® capsules of all strengths are expected to remain intermittent until the second quarter of 2024. It may also take additional time for supplies to normalise at community pharmacies after this date and we are expecting local availability to be intermittent whilst prescriptions held back during the shortage are dispensed.

We issued a medicines shortage letter on 13 February to all GPs, health boards, independent and private services, and pharmacies instructing clinicians to contact patients who are affected by the shortage of lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse®) capsules.

In terms of the prescribing process, some medicines can only be prescribed by specialist teams, others are initially prescribed by a specialist team before being transferred to a repeat prescription and a designated GP, other medicines can be initiated by the GP

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

directly. Some health boards may choose to retain prescribing of medicines for ADHD by specialist teams whilst others have arrangements in place to allow prescribing by GPs, if a GP is happy to do so. The clinician responsible for your constituent's care is best placed to determine the most appropriate treatment for their condition, including the prescribing of a medicine. These are matters for individual clinicians and health boards rather than a matter of government policy.

Regardless of who prescribes the medicine, we reasonably expect all health boards and GP practices to make arrangements for ordering prescriptions as simple as possible for patients.

I was sorry to read about your constituent's experience and would suggest if she is dissatisfied with the way her prescriptions are handled, she raises her concerns with the health board. You can find details of the NHS Wales complaints process "Putting Things Right" here: <https://www.gov.wales/nhs-wales-complaints-and-concerns-putting-things-right>

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing