

Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref TO/EM/00121/24

[Redacted s40(2)]

February 2024

Dear [Redacted s40(2)]

Thank you for your email of 12 January regarding a shortage of methylphenidate prolonged release tablets (Concerta XL 36mg). I have been asked to reply.

The supply of medicines to the UK is a reserved matter and is the responsibility of the UK Government. Occasionally, the NHS experiences temporary disruption to the supply of a medicine and when this does 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 Concerta XL 36mg returned on 4th December. The supply position of several other ADHD medicines is expected to improve over the coming months with the disruption to all ADHD medicines expected to resolve by April. However, it may take some additional time for local supplies at community pharmacies to stabilise as stock allocations make their way to wholesalers and community pharmacies.

On 18 October, Eluned Morgan MS, the Minister for Health and Social Services issued a written statement about medicines shortages, which included reference to medicines used for ADHD: [Written Statement: Disruptions in the supply of medicines \(18 October 2023\) | GOV.WALES](#).

In addition, the Welsh Government issued a medicines shortage letter on 27 September to all GPs, health boards, independent and private services, and pharmacies instructing clinicians to contact patients who are affected by the shortage of ADHD medicines.



Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
• Health and Social Services Group
Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
Caerdydd • Cardiff • CF10 3NQ

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf
• First Point of Contact Centre:
E-bost • E-mail:
CustomerHelp@gov.wales
Ffôn • Tel: 0300 0604400

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.

In terms of the prescribing process; some medicines can only be prescribed by specialist teams, others require initiation by a specialist team before transferring 'repeat' prescribing over to your designated GP, other medicines can be initiated by the GP directly. Some health boards may choose to retain prescribing of medicines for ADHD by specialist teams whilst others may have arrangements in place to allow prescribing via your GP. The clinician responsible for your care is best placed to determine the most appropriate treatment for your condition, including the prescribing of a medicine. In the first instance I would advise discussing the prescribing arrangements with them to see if a more flexible approach would be appropriate for your care.

The NHS Wales App has also been made available to the public (and can be downloaded from your App store or available at <https://app.nhs.wales>). When your GP surgery has enabled appropriate functionality, you will be able to order medicines that are eligible for repeat prescriptions via the NHS Wales App. Further to this, when the Electronic Prescription Service (see the Minister's announcement here: <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-progress-digital-medicines-transformation-portfolio>) is made available in your area, this will remove the need for your prescription to be "taken" to your preferred community pharmacy and for you to be notified when your prescription is ready for collection.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Tîm Busnes y Llywodraeth/Government Business Team
Yr Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/Department for Health and Social Services