



Shared Care Protocol: Lisdexamfetamine (or dexamfetamine*) for patients within adult services

Title:	Shared Care Protocol: Lisdexamfetamine (or dexamfetamine*) for patients within adult services – For use in Berkshire East and Berkshire West only
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Authors:	Liz Dobson, Lead Governance and Clinical Economy Pharmacist, BHFT. James Jeffs, Consultant Psychiatrist, BHFT. Adapted from 'Shared Care Prescribing Arrangements for the use of methylphenidate, atomoxetine, lisdexamfetamine, amphetamine and guanfacine in adult ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) in Berkshire', BHFT, Version 2.4 and NHSE national Atomoxetine shared care protocol, Version 1 July 2022.
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Shared care protocol:

Lisdexamfetamine (or dexamfetamine*) for patients within adult services in Berkshire East and Berkshire West

As well as these protocols, please ensure that [summaries of product characteristics \(SPCs\)](#), [British national formulary \(BNF\)](#) or the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\)](#) or [NICE](#) websites are reviewed for up-to-date information on any medicine.

*This shared care protocol was adapted from the national RMOC template for **lisdexamfetamine** and as such details refer to this drug. However, when patients are responding well to lisdexamfetamine but cannot tolerate the longer effect profile (or in other rare circumstances) they are sometimes considered for **dexamphetamine** instead. **As lisdexamfetamine is a prodrug for dexamfetamine, much of the clinical information is similar but where patients are treated with dexamfetamine, there are key differences (including dosing) which should be taken from the relevant SmPC [EMC \(medicines.org.uk\)](#) or BNF monograph [Dexamfetamine sulfate | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#).** Lisdexamfetamine was formulated specifically to allow once daily dosing with a consistent treatment effect throughout the day, and a *reduced potential for abuse, overdose toxicity and drug tampering*. Dexamfetamine should not be used where there is a risk of diversion or misuse.

Specialist responsibilities

- Assess the patient and provide diagnosis. Ensure the diagnosis is within scope of this shared care protocol ([section 2](#)) and communicated to primary care.
- Use a shared decision making approach; discuss the benefits and risks of the treatment with the patient and/or their carer and provide the appropriate counselling (see [section 11](#)), to enable them to reach an informed decision. Obtain and document consent. Provide an appropriate patient information leaflet.
- Ensure the patient and/or their carer understands that treatment may be stopped if they do not attend for monitoring and treatment review
- Assess for contraindications and cautions (see [section 4](#)) and interactions (see [section 7](#)).
- Review baseline investigations and initial monitoring (see [section 8](#) and section 17).
- Initiate and optimise treatment as outlined in [section 5](#). Prescribe the maintenance treatment until optimised.
- Prescribe in line with controlled drug prescription requirements ([section 6](#)).
- Once treatment is optimised, send report to patient's GP practice detailing the diagnosis, current and ongoing dose, any relevant test results and when the next monitoring is required. Include contact information ([section 13](#) and section 17).
- Prescribe sufficient medication to enable transfer to primary care.
- Conduct the required monitoring in [section 8](#) and communicate the results to primary care. This monitoring, and other responsibilities below, may be carried out by a healthcare professional in primary or secondary care with expertise and training in ADHD, depending on local arrangements.
- Determine the duration of treatment and frequency of review.
- Provide specialist advice if the patient becomes or plans to become pregnant and wished to continue medication. ADHD medication is not recommended to continue unless a clinical decision is made that postponing treatment may pose a greater risk to the pregnancy (See SmPC).
- Provide advice to primary care on the management of adverse effects if required.

Primary care responsibilities

- Respond to the request from the specialist for shared care in writing. It is asked that this be undertaken within 14 days of the request being made, where possible.
- If accepted, prescribe ongoing treatment as detailed in the specialists request and as per [section 5](#) taking into account any potential drug interactions in [section 7](#).
- Prescribe in line with controlled drug prescription requirements ([section 6](#)).
- Adjust the dose of lisdexamfetamine prescribed as advised by the specialist.
- Conduct the required monitoring as outlined in [section 9](#). Communicate any abnormal results to the specialist.
- Assess for possible interactions with lisdexamfetamine when starting new medicines (see [section 7](#))
- Manage adverse effects as detailed in [section 10](#) and discuss with specialist team when required.
- Stop lisdexamfetamine and make an urgent referral for appropriate care if cerebral ischaemia, new or worsening seizures, or serotonin syndrome are suspected.
- Seek specialist advice if the patient becomes or plans to become pregnant and wished to continue medication. ADHD medication is not recommended to continue unless a clinical decision is made that postponing treatment may pose a greater risk to the pregnancy (See SmPC).
- Stop treatment as appropriate (See Section 17).

Patient and/or carer responsibilities

- Take lisdexamfetamine as prescribed and avoid abrupt withdrawal unless advised by primary care prescriber or specialist.
- Attend regularly for monitoring and review appointments with primary care and specialist, and keep contact details up to date with both prescribers. Be aware that medicines may be stopped if they do not attend.
- Report adverse effects to their GP. Seek immediate medical attention if they develop any symptoms as detailed in [section 11](#).
- Report the use of any over the counter medications to their primary care prescriber and be aware they should discuss the use of lisdexamfetamine with their pharmacist before purchasing any OTC medicines.
- Be aware that lisdexamfetamine can affect cognitive function and is subject to drug driving laws, therefore patients must ensure their ability to drive is not impaired before driving (see [section 11](#)).
- Avoid recreational drugs and be aware that alcohol may make the side effects from your treatment worse.
- Lisdexamfetamine is a schedule 2 controlled drug. Patients may be required to prove their identity when collecting prescriptions and should store lisdexamfetamine safely and securely. It must not be shared with anyone else.
- Patients of childbearing potential should use effective contraception, take a pregnancy test if they think they could be pregnant, and inform the specialist or GP immediately if they become pregnant or wish to become pregnant.

1. Background

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Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate is metabolised following administration to dexamfetamine and therefore has the same sympathomimetic mechanism of action with central stimulant and anorectic activity. It is indicated as part of a comprehensive treatment programme for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) when the response to a 6-week trial of methylphenidate treatment is considered clinically inadequate. It may be offered as a first line pharmacological treatment option for adults with ADHD who have been appropriately diagnosed (see NICE Guidance [NG87 Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: diagnosis and management](#)). NICE recommends that people with ADHD have a comprehensive, holistic shared treatment plan that addresses psychological, behavioural and occupational or educational needs.

Lisdexamfetamine is a schedule 2 controlled substance; all legal requirements for prescribing controlled drugs should be followed. See NICE Guidance [NG46 Controlled drugs: safe use and management](#).

Where a person with ADHD is treated by a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) but is approaching their 18th birthday, it is expected that CAMHS will refer to the appropriate adult service if need for ongoing treatment is anticipated.

Pharmacological treatment of ADHD may be needed for extended periods. When lisdexamfetamine is used for extended periods (over 12 months) its usefulness should be re-evaluated at least yearly by a healthcare professional with expertise in ADHD, and consideration given to trial periods off medication to assess the patient's functioning without pharmacotherapy.

2. Indications

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Licensed indication: attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults.
See [SPC](#) for full details of licensed indication.

3. Locally agreed off-label use

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Nil.

4. Contraindications and cautions

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This information does not replace the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) and should be read in conjunction with it. Please see [BNF](#) & [SPC](#) for comprehensive information.

Contraindications:

- Known hypersensitivity to the active substance, any of the excipients, or sympathomimetic amines.
- Glaucoma.
- Symptomatic cardiovascular disease.
- Moderate or severe hypertension.
- Advanced arteriosclerosis.
- Concomitant use of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI) or within 14 days of MAOI treatment.
- Hyperthyroidism or thyrotoxicosis.
- Agitated states.

Cautions:

- History of substance or alcohol abuse.
- Cardiovascular disorders such as structural cardiac abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, coronary artery disease, mild hypertension, recent myocardial infarction, or heart failure.
- Family history of sudden cardiac or unexplained death, ventricular arrhythmia, tics or Tourette's syndrome.
- Underlying medical conditions or concomitant drugs which can increase the QT-interval or heart rate, or elevate blood pressure (e.g. cardiac disease, electrolyte disturbance).
- History of seizure disorders (discontinue if seizures occur).
- Susceptibility to angle-closure glaucoma.
- Psychiatric and neuropsychiatric symptoms or disorders, including manic or psychotic symptoms, aggressive or hostile behaviour, tics, Tourette's syndrome, anxiety, or bipolar disorder.
- Depressive symptoms; patients should be screened for risk of bipolar disorder, including psychiatric and family histories.
- Severe renal impairment; GFR 15-30mL/min/1.73m² or CrCl less than 30mL/min. Dose reduction is required, see [section 5](#).
- Hepatic insufficiency (due to lack of data).

- Pregnancy or breast-feeding (see [section 12](#)).
- Potential for abuse, misuse, or diversion.

5. Initiation and ongoing dose regimen

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- Transfer of monitoring and prescribing to primary care is normally after the patient's dose has been optimised.
- The duration of treatment & frequency of review will be determined by the specialist, based on clinical response and tolerability.
- All dose or formulation adjustments will be the responsibility of the initiating specialist unless directions have been discussed and agreed with the primary care clinician

Initial stabilisation:

30 mg taken once daily in the morning, increased in increments of 20 mg at intervals no shorter than 1 week. Lower starting doses may be used if clinically appropriate (off-label use).

The loading period must be prescribed by the initiating specialist.

Maintenance dose (following initial stabilisation):

Maximum 70 mg per day.

Lisdexamfetamine must be prescribed by the initiating specialist during initiation and dose stabilisation.

Conditions requiring dose adjustment:

In severe renal impairment (GFR 15-30mL/min/1.73m² or CrCl less than 30mL/min), the recommended maximum dose is 50 mg per day.

Consider trial periods of stopping medication or reducing the dose when assessment of the overall balance of benefits and harms suggests this may be appropriate. Advice can be sought from the specialist where needed.

6. Pharmaceutical aspects

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Route of administration:	Oral
Formulation:	Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate 30mg 50mg and 70mg hard capsules (Elvanse Adult®) Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg and 70mg hard capsules (Elvanse®) – use in adults may be considered off-label. See SPC for full details.
Administration details:	The dose may be taken with or without food Lisdexamfetamine capsules may be swallowed whole, or the capsule opened and the entire contents emptied and mixed with a soft food such as yogurt or in a glass of water or orange juice. See SPC for further information If a dose is missed then the next scheduled dose should be taken as usual; <u>a double dose should not be taken to make up for a missed dose</u> . Afternoon doses should be avoided because of the potential for insomnia

Other important information:

Lisdexamfetamine is a schedule 2 controlled drug and is subject to [legal prescription requirements](#). It has the potential for misuse and diversion.

Patients should be advised to avoid excessive alcohol which may exacerbate the central nervous system (CNS) side-effects of lisdexamfetamine and there is limited data on the evidence of interactions.

Amfetamines can cause a significant elevation in plasma corticosteroid levels. This increase is greatest in the evening. Amfetamines may interfere with urinary steroid determinations

7. Significant medicine interactions

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The following list is not exhaustive. Please see [BNF](#) or [SPC](#) for comprehensive information and recommended management.

The following medicines must not be prescribed without consultation with the specialist:

- **Mono-amine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) and other sympathomimetics** (e.g. rasagiline, selegiline, safinamide) – additive hypertensive effect

Other clinically significant interactions

- **Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) (e.g. fluoxetine, paroxetine):** may increase exposure to lisdexamfetamine, risk of serotonin syndrome
- **Serotonergic drugs, bupropion, tapentadol, tramadol:** Risk of serotonin syndrome
- **Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) and nabilone:** may increase risk of cardiovascular adverse events.
- **Ascorbic acid and other agents and conditions (thiazide diuretics, diets high in animal protein, diabetes, respiratory acidosis)** that acidify urine increase urinary excretion and decrease the half-life of amfetamine.
- **Sodium bicarbonate and other agents and conditions (diets high in fruits and vegetables, urinary tract infections and vomiting)** that alkalinise urine decrease urinary excretion and extend the half-life of lisdexamfetamine.
- **Antihypertensives, including guanethidine:** effects may be reduced by lisdexamfetamine
- **Lithium, phenothiazines, haloperidol:** may reduce the effects of lisdexamfetamine
- **Opioids** (including tapentadol and tramadol): analgesic effects may be increased by lisdexamfetamine
- **Alcohol:** Limited data is available; therefore caution is advised as alcohol may exacerbate the CNS side effects of lisdexamfetamine
- **Apraclonidine:** effects decreased by lisdexamfetamine.
- **Ritonavir, tipranavir:** may increase exposure to lisdexamfetamine
- **Safinamide:** predicted to increase the risk of severe hypertension when given with lisdexamfetamine
- **Atomoxetine:** increased risk of adverse effects

8. Baseline investigations, initial monitoring and ongoing monitoring to be undertaken by specialist

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The GP completes the following referral form <https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/media/109514410/adhd-clinic-shared-care-actions-form.pdf> (See Section 17) which includes providing baseline investigations. Review of monitoring at baseline and during initiation is the responsibility of the specialist; only once the patient is optimised on the chosen medication with no anticipated further changes expected in immediate future will prescribing and monitoring be transferred to primary care.

Baseline investigations:

- A medical history and cardiovascular assessment, taking into account conditions that may be contraindications, risk of pregnancy (where applicable), and to ensure the patient meets the criteria for ADHD and that pharmacological treatment is required
- A risk assessment for substance misuse and drug diversion
- Blood pressure (BP) and heart rate
- Height, weight and body mass index (BMI)
- Arrange for electrocardiogram (ECG), only if the patient has any of the following:
 - History of congenital heart disease or previous cardiac surgery
 - Sudden death in a first-degree relative under 40 years suggesting a cardiac disease
 - Shortness of breath on exertion compared with peers
 - Fainting on exertion or in response to fright or noise
 - Palpitations
 - Chest pain suggestive of cardiac origin
 - Signs of heart failure, heart murmur or hypertension
 - Current treatment with a medicine that may increase cardiac risk

Initial monitoring:

- Before every change of dose: assess heart rate and blood pressure.
- After every change of dose: assess heart rate and blood pressure, and any new or worsening psychiatric symptoms. The specialist should determine the appropriate timing for this monitoring.
- Monitor for aggressive behaviour or hostility
- Assessment of symptom improvement. Discontinue if no improvement is observed.

Ongoing monitoring (ADHD):

Ensure the patient receives a review at least annually with a healthcare professional with training and expertise in managing ADHD. This may be in primary or secondary care, depending on local arrangements, and should include a review of ADHD medication, including patient preferences, benefits, adverse effects, and ongoing clinical need. Consider trial periods of stopping medication or reducing the dose when assessment of the overall balance of benefits and harms suggests this may be appropriate. If continuing medication, document the reasons why.

Review outcomes should be communicated to the primary care prescriber in writing, with any urgent changes also communicated by telephone.

9. Ongoing monitoring requirements to be undertaken by primary care

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See [section 10](#) for further guidance on management of adverse effects/responding to monitoring results.

Monitoring and advice	Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood pressure and heart rate, and assessment for cardiovascular signs or symptoms Weight and appetite Assessment for new or worsening psychiatric and neurological signs or symptoms (e.g. tics, anxiety, symptoms of bipolar disorder) Explore whether patient is experiencing any difficulties with sleep 	Every 6 months, and after any change of dose recommended by specialist team.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of adherence, and for any indication of lisdexamfetamine abuse, misuse, or diversion 	As required, based on the patient's needs and individual circumstances
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review to ensure patient has been offered and attended an annual review with a healthcare professional with expertise in ADHD 	Annually

(If relevant) If monitoring results are forwarded to the specialist team, please include clear clinical information on the reason for sending, to inform action to be taken by secondary care.

10. Adverse effects and other management

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Any serious adverse reactions should be reported to the MHRA via the Yellow Card scheme. Visit www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard

For information on incidence of ADRs see relevant summaries of product characteristics

Result	Action for primary care
As well as responding to absolute values in laboratory tests, a rapid change or a consistent trend in any value should prompt caution and extra vigilance.	
Resting HR greater than 120bpm, arrhythmia/palpitations, clinically significant increase in systolic BP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In context of recent dose increase, revert to previous dose and discuss with specialist for ongoing management In absence of recent dose changes, reduce dose by half and discuss with specialist or cardiology for further advice.
New or worsening seizures	Stop treatment and discuss with specialist. Discontinuation may be indicated.

Anorexia or weight loss, weight or BMI outside healthy range	<p>Exclude other reasons for weight loss. Exclude other reasons for weight loss. Give advice as per NICE NG87:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take medication with or after food, not before • additional meals or snacks early in the morning or late in the evening when stimulant effects have worn off • obtaining dietary advice • consuming high-calorie foods of good nutritional value <p>Discuss with specialist if difficulty persists; dose reduction, treatment break, or change of medication may be required.</p>
Insomnia, sleep disturbance/nightmares, sedation, sexual dysfunction	Review timing of doses and continue treatment unless severe, Give advice on sleep hygiene. Discuss with specialist if required
Nausea, diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, constipation, dry mouth, headache, dizziness, enuresis, increased daytime urination, tics	Continue treatment unless severe. Some symptoms may be alleviated by concomitant food intake. Discuss with specialist if required
New or worsening psychiatric or neuropsychiatric symptoms, e.g. mania, depression, paranoia, anxiety and agitation	Discuss with specialist. Stop treatment and consider referral to acute mental health team if suicidal thoughts, mania, or psychosis are present
Symptoms of serotonin syndrome, e.g. agitation, hallucinations, coma, tachycardia, labile blood pressure, hyperthermia, hyperreflexia, incoordination, rigidity, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea	<p>Discontinue lisdexamfetamine as soon as possible. Management depends on severity; use clinical judgement and seek advice if necessary.</p> <p>Discuss with specialist team to determine whether lisdexamfetamine can be re-started.</p>
Suspicion of abuse, misuse, or diversion	Discuss with specialist team

11. Advice to patients and carers

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The specialist will counsel the patient with regard to the benefits and risks of treatment and will provide the patient with any relevant information and advice, including patient information leaflets on individual medicines.

The patient/carer should be advised to report any of the following signs or symptoms to their primary care prescriber without delay:

- Any mood changes, such as depression, paranoia, anxiety or agitation, psychosis, mania and suicidal ideation
- Palpitations, chest pain or syncope
- Cerebrovascular symptoms, such as severe headache, numbness, weakness, paralysis, and impairment of coordination, vision, speech, language, or memory
- Abdominal pain, malaise, jaundice or darkening of urine
- Skin rashes, or bruising easily

- Any visual changes such as difficulty with accommodation or blurring of vision
- If they suspect they may be pregnant, or are planning a pregnancy. Patients of childbearing potential should use appropriate contraception, and take a pregnancy test if they think there is a possibility they could be pregnant.

The patient/carer should be advised:

- Attend regularly for monitoring and review appointments with primary care and specialist, and keep contact details up to date with both prescribers. It may not be safe to continue prescribing without regular review, and patients should be aware that their medicines could be stopped if they do not attend appointments.
- Lisdexamfetamine can affect impair cognitive function and is subject to drug driving laws, therefore patients must ensure their ability to drive is not impaired before driving. For information on 2015 legislation regarding driving whilst taking certain controlled drugs, including amfetamines, see [drugs and driving: the law](#). People who drive must inform the DVLA if their ADHD, narcolepsy or medicines affect their ability to drive safely. See <https://www.gov.uk/adhd-and-driving> or <https://www.gov.uk/narcolepsy-and-driving>.
- Avoid excessive alcohol while taking lisdexamfetamine, as it may make some side effects worse. Avoid recreational drugs. Due to the risks of severe depression, and fatigue, abrupt withdrawal after a prolonged period of intake of high doses of lisdexamfetamine should be avoided. Patients wishing to reduce their dose or stop lisdexamfetamine treatment should discuss with their specialist before doing so.
- Lisdexamfetamine is a schedule 2 controlled drug. Patients may be required to prove their identity when collecting prescriptions and should store lisdexamfetamine safely and securely. It must not be shared with anyone else. There are restrictions on travelling with controlled drugs: see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/controlled-drugs-personal-licences>.

Patient information:

- Royal College of Psychiatrists – ADHD in adults. <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/problems-disorders/adhd-in-adults>
- NHS – Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd/>
- Narcolepsy UK – lisdexamfetamine. <https://www.narcolepsy.org.uk/resources/lisdexamfetamine>
- NHS – Narcolepsy. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/narcolepsy/>

12. Pregnancy, paternal exposure and breast feeding

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It is the responsibility of the specialist to provide advice on the need for contraception to male and female patients on initiation and at each review, but the ongoing responsibility for providing this advice rests with both the primary care prescriber and the specialist.

Pregnancy:

The active metabolite of lisdexamfetamine, dexamfetamine, is thought to cross the placenta. The limited data available shows an increased risk of premature birth and preeclampsia. Infants may also develop withdrawal symptoms such as dysphoria, hyperexcitability and pronounced exhaustion.

Specialists will provide specialist advice to primary care if the patient becomes or plans to become pregnant and wishes to continue medication. ADHD medication is not recommended to continue unless a clinical decision is made that postponing treatment may pose a greater risk to the pregnancy (See SmPC).

Healthcare professional information available from:

<https://www.medicinesinpregnancy.org/bumps/monographs/USE-OF-AMFETAMINES-IN-PREGNANCY/>

Breastfeeding:

There is no published evidence for safety of lisdexamfetamine in breastfeeding. The manufacturers recommend against use, and the UK Drugs in Lactation Service recommend caution (see link below). Lisdexamfetamine metabolites, including dexamfetamine, are excreted in human milk, therefore a risk to infants cannot be excluded. An individual risk assessment must be made, taking into account the benefit of breast feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Healthcare professional information available from: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/safety-in-lactation-drugs-for-adhd/>

Paternal exposure:

No evidence regarding adverse outcomes following paternal exposure was identified.

13. Specialist contact information

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- Erleigh Road Clinic: Neuropsychology@berkshire.nhs.uk / 0118 929 6477/6472, though this is a very small service and cannot guarantee an urgent response.
- Common Point of Entry (CPE): Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust 2nd Floor, The Old Forge 45-47 Peach Street Wokingham RG40 1XJ Phone number 0300 365 2000 (Press option 4)
- Medicines Information Service at Prospect Park Hospital via 0118 960 5075 between 9am and 1pm on weekdays or via email: medicines.information@berkshire.nhs.uk

14. Additional information

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Where patient care is transferred from one specialist service or GP practice to another, a new shared care agreement must be completed. Ensure that the specialist is informed of any changes to the patient's GP or their contact details.

15. References

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- NICE NG87: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: diagnosis and management. Last updated September 2019. Accessed via <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng87/> on 04/05/21
- eBNF. Lisdexamfetamine, last updated 4th September 2020. Accessed via <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/> on 04/05/2021
- Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate 20 mg hard capsules (Elvanse®). Date of revision of the text: 11/01/21. Accessed via <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/2979/smhc> on 13/05/21
- Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate 30 mg hard capsules (Elvanse® Adult). Date of revision of the text: 11/01/21. Accessed via <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/6828/smhc> on 13/05/21
- The Renal Association. CKD Stages. Accessed via <https://renal.org/health-professionals/information-resources/uk-eckd-guide/ckd-stages> on 13/05/21
- NICE. NG46: Controlled drugs: safe use and management. April 2016. Accessed via <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng46/> on 05/05/2021
- Gov.uk: Drugs and driving: the lawGov.uk. Drugs and driving: the law. Accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law> on 13/05/21
- Specialist Pharmacy Service. Safety in Lactation: Drugs for ADHD. Last updated October 2020. Accessed via <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/safety-in-lactation-drugs-for-adhd/> on 13/05/2021
- NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: last revised January 2021. Accessed via <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder/prescribing-information/amfetamines/> on 13/05/21

16. Other relevant national guidance

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- Shared Care for Medicines Guidance – A Standard Approach (RMOC). Available from <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/rmoc-shared-care-guidance/>
- NHSE guidance – Responsibility for prescribing between primary & secondary/tertiary care. Available from <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/responsibility-for-prescribing-between-primary-and-secondary-tertiary-care/>

- General Medical Council. Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices. Shared care. Available from <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-practice-in-prescribing-and-managing-medicines-and-devices/shared-care>
- NICE NG197: Shared decision making. Last updated June 2021. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng197/>.

17. Local arrangements for referral

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Define the referral procedure from hospital to primary care prescriber & route of return should the patient's condition change.

To be agreed and completed locally

The Berkshire Healthcare Adult ADHD Service operates solely for patients of GPs who have agreed Shared Care in advance, which is part of the initial referral process. Patients cannot be accepted for medication where there is not a GP agreeing to ongoing prescribing, since this is outside the remit of the service, and would divert resources from seeing new patients. Patients can be seen for diagnosis only.

The service provides: diagnostic (re)assessment for ADHD, initiation and titration of ADHD medication and yearly* reviews of the efficacy and necessity of ongoing ADHD treatment.

*The Service now offer a mixed model with remote appointments and aim to review patients within 2 years. If the patient requires an earlier review, GPs may contact the Service for advice. In East Berkshire, there is a scheme for GPs to carry out structured annual ADHD reviews. Frimley ICB have provided additional training to support this.

The service does not offer an ongoing prescribing or monitoring function and cannot provide urgent mental health input.

Referral Process

STEP 1: GP to send initial referral request for Diagnostic Assessment to Common Point of Entry (CPE), including patient details and brief summary of concerns.

Once a referral is received, the service will perform an initial screen and add the patients name to the waiting list for an appointment. The patient is then seen for an ADHD assessment (for diagnosis, pending medical assessment).

STEP 2: Secondary Care Medical ADHD Assessment

Assessment includes physical health, mental health, social circumstances (including past and present medical and psychiatric disorders or symptoms), concomitant medicines and history or risk of substance misuse.

STEP 3: A request is sent to the patients General Practitioner to complete Shared Care Actions (SCA) Form, available at:

<https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/media/109514410/adhd-clinic-shared-care-actions-form.pdf>

Full history and details of any diagnosis or history where caution is needed for potential medication treatment, including

- Assessment of history of exercise syncope, undue breathlessness and other cardiovascular symptoms
- Past and present medical and psychiatric symptoms
- Physical assessment, including cardiovascular system examination, weight, blood pressure and heart rate
- If there is past medical or family history of serious cardiac disease, a history of sudden death in young family members or abnormal findings on previous cardiac examination, then provide ECG details with interpretation (consult a cardiologist for clarification as needed).
- Risk assessment for substance misuse and drug diversion.
- Provide details of current medication.

STEP 4: First Prescribing Appointment with Specialist

1. Review SCA form from GP
2. Review patient in line with Section 8. NB NICE advise; 'that an ECG is not needed before starting stimulants, atomoxetine or guanfacine if cardiovascular history and examination are normal and the person is not on medicine that poses an increased cardiovascular risk.'
3. Provide the initial FP10 prescription for the medication of choice (unless the patient is already receiving prescriptions from GP).

STEP 5: Follow-up with Specialist

4. Within 4 weeks of initial prescription (and usually within first 2 weeks)
 - review efficiency of the prescribed ADHD drug
 - monitor for side effects and document any problems discussed
 - adjust dose if necessary and correspond with GP as necessary for sharing of information
 - take pulse and blood pressure
5. Continue prescribing until patient is stabilised
6. Once the patient is stable, transfer to GP care for continuation of treatment.
7. The patient will be invited back to the specialist for a review (unless this need is being met by a GP choosing to participate in the East Berkshire enhanced Shared Care scheme). The Service now offer a mixed model with remote appointments and aim to review patients within 2 years. If the patient requires an earlier review, GPs may contact the Service for advice. Patients who do not attend their review appointment will have their name removed from the review list and the GP will be informed.

Note: The patient will only be open to the Specialist Service for the time medicines are being initiated and at the time of the review appointment. It is not possible to keep the patient 'open' on the Adult ADHD Clinic List at other times as referrals to other services would be delayed should they become necessary.

8. Review progress if requested by GP - change in behaviour, treatment resistance, increased sedation, etc. Notify the GP of the results of any patient reviews, including changes in prescribed dose. Ensure the patient has sufficient medication until the GP has received this information, at least 14 days.
9. Receive and respond to feedback from GP as appropriate, e.g. progress/status of the patient and in particular noting any dose changes/alterations/discontinuation etc. of treatment under the agreement.

STEP 6: General Practitioner Responsibilities – Maintenance (See Section 9)