

Dear Colleagues

**Re:           DOB:           NHS No:**

We are writing to you to inform you of a temporary change in practice at Solent CAMHS regarding the management of **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**. This is in direct response to a National Patient Safety Alert received from NHS England and The Department of Health and Social Care.

The alert has identified that there is a national shortage of multiple medications licenced for the treatment of ADHD due to a combination of manufacturing challenges and increased global demand. The available supply of the remaining ADHD products does not meet the heightened demand. At present, the supply disruptions are expected to resolve by the end of the year, but this is uncertain.

As directed nationally, we have been instructed not to start any new medication prescriptions until further notice. For this reason, Solent NHS trust in agreement with local commissioning services will not be offering medication initiation appointments over the next few months. This has been a difficult decision for us to make as we are aware of the impact on young people and frustration that this will cause for families and to your service. Those awaiting medication will remain on the waiting list until supply is re-established, the national shortage is resolved, and we can begin to prescribe safely again.

For young people currently on medication, obtaining their usual prescription may prove challenging, and some may face difficulties accessing it altogether. It may mean that we need to consider stopping, swapping medications, or prescribing at lower doses. We will be offering appointments to discuss this with families as timely as we can.

Please be aware that young people with ADHD who access your service may present differently over the next few months and you may see an increase in their ADHD symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. Some may undergo a gradual transition off their current medications to trial a new one, while others may be on lower doses and experience breakthrough symptoms. Others may need to swap to immediate release medications, which may mean they need to take a second and/ or third dose throughout the day. There may also be those in the unfortunate position of not being able to take any medication at all.

This is not a situation that we would wish for any of our young people or families, and we will continue to monitor and update them with supply information as we can over the next few months. We will, of course, return to prescribing as normal as soon as we are able to, but we are aware that the impact of this National shortage may worsen before it gets better.

We have written to the young people and their families that will be affected by this shortage to make them aware. We have introduced processes within the service to help us identify and contact those immediately affected as timely and effectively as we are able. We also have question and answer sessions with Re:minds Parent and Carer group and will continue to offer additional drop ins for families through this forum.

In the meantime, we would be grateful if you would consider the above information when planning any interventions or support for young people within your service who you are aware usually takes or is currently on the waiting list for ADHD medication. There may be a greater need for behavioural strategies and support plans for them over the next few months.

Yours sincerely

**ADHD Pathway Team**  
**Solent CAMHS Southampton**



This letter has been generated from SystemOne

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