

ADHD Medications Back in Stock, Says Takeda

By Alan Cross May 2024



Supplies Resumed for ADHD

Takeda, the manufacturer of several ADHD medications, has confirmed that the supply of methylphenidate (Equasym), Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse), and guanfacine (Intuniv) has resumed in the UK. A spokesperson for Takeda informed The Pharmaceutical Journal on 10 May 2024 that "the majority of our ADHD medicines are now available," although they cautioned that "short-term, intermittent disruption of a few strengths may occur as the situation stabilizes."

Ongoing Supply Issues Since 2022

Supply disruptions have been an ongoing issue since 2022. In September 2023, a national patient safety alert highlighted that various ADHD medications, including Takeda's products, would be in short supply until December 2023. A November 2023 survey by ADHD UK revealed that around 85% of patients on ADHD medication were affected by shortages, with 27% receiving no supply at all. Takeda had warned of potential "intermittent disruption" of its ADHD products until April 2024.

Efforts to Address Supply Challenges

Takeda attributed the supply issues to a "significant increase in demand for ADHD medications over the past two years" coupled with "intermittent production challenges." The company has implemented measures to improve operations, including forming a dedicated team to resolve supply issues and relocating packaging volumes to a Takeda-owned facility to enhance supply stability.



Expert Opinions on Supply Improvements

Beryl Navti, clinical lead for children and adolescent mental health services at North East London NHS Foundation Trust and a council member of the College of Mental Health Pharmacy, noted improvements in the supply of various ADHD medications, particularly methylphenidate. She also mentioned the introduction of new brands of existing methylphenidate formulations, which has broadened treatment options. However, Navti pointed out that some families still face difficulties obtaining ADHD medications due to regional stock issues. The Specialist Pharmacy Service's latest update on 30 April 2024 indicates that several products continue to have active supply issues.

Challenges Remain

Henry Shelford, CEO of ADHD UK, commented on the ongoing shortage issues, noting the lack of clarity on the extent of these problems. While Elvanse availability has improved, other significant issues persist. Shelford highlighted the difficulty patients face in obtaining alternative medications due to long waiting lists for specialist ADHD services, which complicates medication reviews and adjustments.

Conclusion

While Takeda's ADHD medications are largely back in stock, the supply situation remains complex, with ongoing challenges for patients in various regions. The company continues to work on stabilizing the supply and addressing intermittent disruptions.

[Source](#)

