

Rotherham Place

Prescribing

Bitesize

 yourhealthrotherham.co.uk • ISSUE 5 | • VOLUME 1 | • YEAR 2023

Melatonin SCP updated with new products.

Rotherham place has updated the shared care protocol (SCP) for the use of melatonin in the treatment of sleep disorders in children. This SCP has been agreed for use with our local partners at TRFT and RDaSH.

Updated product choices are as follows:

If a **modified release** (MR) preparation is required, **generic Melatonin 2mg MR** tablets will be initiated.

If an **immediate release** product is required, **Adaflex[®]** tablets will be initiated.

The generic melatonin 2mg MR tablets can be halved to get a 1mg dose whilst [still preserving](#) their modified release characteristics.

Adaflex[®] tablets can be crushed and mixed with water if required.

All valproate containing products to require original pack dispensing from October 2023

Following the recommendations made by the [Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review](#) and the outcome of a recent public consultation on [Original pack dispensing and supply of medicines containing sodium valproate](#), changes to Human Medicines Regulations 2023 come into effect on the 11th October that **mandate full pack dispensing** (i.e. quantities of 30 or 100) of all licensed medicines containing valproate.

Community pharmacies will round-up or round-down the quantity dispensed to the nearest full pack.

Please note: pharmacists will be able to make an exception to supply complete packs of medicines containing valproate, based on an individual risk assessment to assess the need for a patient to be supplied the medicine in different packaging (for example in a monitored dosage system) and provided processes are in place to ensure a product information leaflet is supplied.

Risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviour with Fluoroquinolones

A recent [Drug Safety Update](#) has been published to remind clinicians to be alert to the risk of psychiatric reactions, including depression and psychotic reactions that can occur with fluoroquinolone use. This risk has been reemphasised after the MHRA received a Coroner's report following the death of a patient who died by suicide after being treated with ciprofloxacin. The patient had no previous history of depression or mental health problems. Clinicians are asked to advise patients to be alert to any mood changes, distressing thoughts, or feelings about suicide or harming themselves at any point during treatment.

Drug interactions with oral Biological agents.

Janus-associated tyrosine kinases (JAK) inhibitors (including baricitinib, abrocitinib, filgotinib, tofacitinib and upadacitinib) are now being increasingly used by the gastroenterology, rheumatology and dermatology departments. JAK inhibitors are metabolised by the CYP3A4 liver enzymes. Prescribing of common medication that can interfere with CYP3A4 (e.g fluoxetine, erythromycin, diltiazem etc) **after** the JAK has been initiated will become increasingly common. Clinicians are reminded that the MMT [Recording Non Practice Drugs](#) guide can ensure RED drugs are recorded on the clinical system in a way which triggers drug monitoring/interaction alerts and will appear on the SCR to inform other organisations.

Updated pathway for COVID treatment in primary care

Full information on the updated referral and treatment pathway for eligible patients with COVID can be found on the South Yorkshire ICB website here: <https://southyorkshire.icb.nhs.uk/our-information/medicines-optimisation/therapeutic-area-guidance/covid-19>.

Information on current shortage of ADHD medication

To help clinicians with the current shortages of ADHD medication, the medicines management team has produced the following local [guidance](#) on alternatives. Information for parents, carers and families can be found [here](#).



South Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board

SHORTAGE OF ADHD MEDICINES Rx ADVICE (ROTHERHAM GP PRACTICES)

SUMMARY

- There are supply disruptions affecting "various" strengths of medications which are licensed for the treatment of **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**
- The supply disruption of these medicines is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and an increased global demand.
- "Other" ADHD products remain available but **cannot** meet excessive increases in demand.
- At present, supply disruptions expected to resolve at various dates between Oct & Dec 2023

National Patient Safety Alert (NPSA) 27TH Sept 2023 - provides further background and clinical information and actions for providers ([NatPSA_2023_011_DHSC.pdf](#))

ATOMOXETINE (*Strattera – brand discontinued*)

DEXAMFETAMINE (*Amfexa*)

GUANFACINE (*Intuniv*)

LISDEXAMFETAMINE (*Elvance, Elvance Adult*)

NO SCP
advice pt to
contact ADHD
clinic directly



METHYLPHENIDATE via SCP (Links: [SCP](#) / [Proforma](#))

Standard (Instant Release "IR") tablets no issues
5/10/20mg tabs which can be halved
[→ prescribe "**generically**"]

Prolonged Release "XL" tablets

- branded generics **Affened XL, Delmosart XL, Matoride XL, Xaggitin XL and Xenidate XL** all have equivalent release profiles and are considered interchangeable (↔) 😊
- prescribe (same strength & dose) of whichever branded generic is available
[→ prescribe by "**brand**"]

Prolonged Release "XL" capsules

- Equasym XL caps → no equivalent 😞
[→ contact ADHD clinic]
- Medikinet XL caps ↔ Metyrol XL caps or ↔ Meflynate XL caps

Product	Strengths	Appearance
Affened XL (2 chambers OROS® tablets)	• 18mg • 27mg • 36mg • 54mg	
Delmosart XL Xaggitin XL ^{®10} (2 chambers OROS® tablets)	• 18mg • 27mg • 36mg • 54mg	
Matoride XL (2 chambers OROS® tablets)	• 18mg • 36mg • 54mg NO 27mg = (
Xenidate XL (near pellet tablets)	• 18mg • 27mg • 36mg • 54mg	
Concerta XL (3 chambers OROS® capsules)	• 18mg • 27mg • 36mg • 54mg	



NHS
Rotherham Doncaster
and South Humber
NHS Foundation Trust
RDaSH CAMHS: 03000 215 984

Sheffield Children's **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust
SCH Ryegate: 0114 271 7609

NHS
South West Yorkshire Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust
SWYPT (Child&Adolescent): 01226 644 829