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RE: Global Shortage of ADHD Medicines

Dear Patients, Families and Carers,

The global shortage of ADHD medications is creating challenges for all of us, not least our patients who are waiting for their initial and repeat prescriptions to be dispensed. The Department of Health and Social Care along with NHS England have issued guidance to all organisations involved in prescribing and dispensing ADHD medications. They have concluded that the supply disruption is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and an increased global demand. The disruptions are expected to be resolved by the end of the year, although we may see some improvements in the next few weeks.

The disruption in medicines supply is outside of our control; however, we are not complacent, and the team are working hard to find short-term solutions to mitigate the impact on our patients.

We issue over 5,000 prescriptions each month to at least 5,000 patients – and we care about all of them. This crisis in medication supply was not foreseen by any health care organisation and we have all been challenged by the understandable number of patients and families seeking information and advice. We have increased our 'enquiries' team, provided additional training, and augmented the team with clinicians to give advice on alternative care strategies until the medicines supply position improves. We have invested in new software to improve call management and, as the largest UK prescriber of ADHD medication, we have engaged directly with the manufacturers with the aim of securing supplies for our patients as soon as they become available. Moreover, our pharmacy team have been searching both the UK and internationally to identify any stocks we can access. More information on our response to this global shortage is available on our website.

All patients who are currently being titrated to identify their most suitable medication will receive individualised management plans at their next titration call-back. Patients who receive prescriptions from the GP through shared-care arrangements should contact their GP who has received NHS guidance through the National Safety Alert - NatPSA/2023/011/DHSC. We will continue to assess and diagnose patients; however, in accordance with Dept of Health instructions we will only be able to issue prescriptions once the supply situation improves.

It is most important that you do not resort to self-medication without first discussing this with your clinician.

Despite our initiatives, I am sorry to say, that for all our patients, there are likely to be disruptions in their prescriptions. To assist you with managing these breaks we have produced a series of webinars that can be accessed via our website - <https://www.adhd-360.com/resources/interviews-and-webinars> I would urge you all to join one of these.

As you would expect, I am personally leading our response to this challenge, and I will keep you updated by regular emails and through our website on progress.

Kind regards,

Phil Anderton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Anderton', with a horizontal line underneath.

Managing Director

ADHD 360