

DTG decision: Formulary

The Drugs and Therapeutics Group has included “Elvanse Adult” (lis-dexamfetamine) for the treatment of Adult ADHD in the Trust’s formulary. Elvanse Adult is **a stimulant drug licensed for initiation in adults as part of a comprehensive ADHD treatment programme (currently the only licensed stimulant in this age group)**.

Lis-dexamfetamine for the under 18 year old age group with ADHD continues to be available as “Elvanse” and has been in the Trust’s formulary since 2013.

Elvanse and Elvanse Adult can currently only be prescribed within secondary care in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. However, Elvanse is included in the [3Ts shared care guideline](#).

What is it?

Lis-dexamfetamine is a prodrug of dexamfetamine, bound to L-lysine. It is pharmacologically inactive but is hydrolysed to its active form, dexamphetamine, primarily by red blood cells in the gastrointestinal tract after oral administration. Amphetamines are non-catecholamine sympathomimetic amines with CNS stimulant activity. The mode of therapeutic action of amphetamine in ADHD is not fully established, however it is thought to be due to its ability to block the reuptake of norepinephrine and dopamine into the presynaptic neuron and increase the release of these monoamines into the extraneuronal space. The prodrug, lis-dexamfetamine, does not bind to the sites responsible for the reuptake of norepinephrine and dopamine in vitro.

What is the dose?

Elvanse is indicated for children aged 6 to 17 years old when response to previous methylphenidate treatment is considered clinically inadequate.

Elvanse Adult is indicated for adults aged 18 years and above.

The starting dose (in all ages) is 30mg **ONCE** daily in the morning, increased at a minimum of weekly intervals of 20mg to a maximum of 70mg per day.

Are there any contraindications or precautions?

Contraindications and precautions are similar to other stimulant medicines. For more specific information please refer to the manufacturer’s [SPC](#).

What adverse effects does it cause?

Side effects are similar to that of other stimulants such as methylphenidate. Very common adverse effects include insomnia, headache, decreased appetite, and weight loss; common side effects include upper abdominal pain, nausea, dry mouth and dizziness.

▼ As with all new drugs, lis-dexamfetamine is a black triangle drug and all suspected adverse reactions should be reported to the MHRA via the yellow card scheme (www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard). Refer to the [SPCs](#) for a full list of adverse effects.

What is the required monitoring?

As for other stimulants, monitoring of height (children), weight, pulse and blood pressure is necessary. Close monitoring during titration is recommended and once on a stable dose, these parameters should be monitored every 6 months.

How should patients be switched from their current ADHD medication to Elvanse or Elvanse Adult?

For information and advice on recommended switch regimens please contact the Medicines Information Service.



Treatment cost ranges for comparison

Daily dose	per year £
Concerta XL 18mg – 108mg	379.47 – 1471.68
Medikinet XL 5mg – 90mg	292.49 – 1228.59
Equasym XL 10mg – 90mg	304.16 – 1277.50
Atomoxetine 10mg – 100mg	814.21 – 1085.61
Lis-dexamfetamine 30mg – 70mg	759.20 – 1084.05
Guanfacine 1mg – 7mg	730.00 – 1842.98

What capsule strengths are available?

30mg, 50mg, and 70mg

How is it taken?

- Take in the morning
- Take with or without food
- Swallow whole OR
- The capsule can be opened and the entire contents emptied and mixed with a soft food such as yogurt or in a glass of water or orange juice.

Need more information?

For more detailed prescribing information please refer to the [SPC](#).

OR

contact the **Medicines Information Service** on 01865 904365 or email: med.info@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk.