

Prescribing of Methylphenidate 12-hour slow release tablets

Information for patients and carers

Why have I received this leaflet?

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain a change in how your child's ADHD medicine (methylphenidate 12-hour slow release tablets) will be prescribed.

What are generic and brand names?

When pharmaceutical companies develop a new medicine, they give it two names:

- A generic name - the approved chemical name of the medicine (drug). Every medicine has an official generic name.
- A brand name - the name chosen by the company that makes the medicine. For example, paracetamol is the generic name and brand names include Calpol® and Panadol®.

Methylphenidate: Several manufacturers produce methylphenidate (generic name) 12 hour slow-release tablets and the brand names of these are:

**Affened® XL
Concerta® XL
Delmosart®
Matoride® XL
Xaggitin® XL
Xenidate® XL**

You will most probably have received prescriptions for one of these brands.

What is changing?

- Due to national supply problems with methylphenidate, prescriptions will now be written by brand name (e.g. Xaggitin XL).
- We work with your pharmacy to prescribe whichever brand is available, so your child can get their medicine without delay.

Do the medicines work the same?

Yes. All brands contain the same active ingredient, methylphenidate, which is released slowly during the day.

- They provide the same benefits.
- They have the same possible side effects.
- The dose and how your child takes the medicine will not change unless advised by the prescriber.
- Some brands may cost less, but this does not affect how well they work.

Why are we prescribing by brand?

- To make sure your child's medicine can be dispensed quickly, even during supply shortages.
- To reduce the risk of missed doses or treatment being interrupted.
- To ensure the right medicine is available without delay.

How does this affect you?

- You may notice a different brand name or a change in the appearance of the tablets.
- There is no change in the way the medicine works or in your child's treatment.
- If you have any concerns about side effects or differences, please contact the prescriber.

For impartial and confidential advice or information on the services provided by Bridgewater or to receive this leaflet in an alternative format call our Patient Services team on 0800 587 0562.