

# Patient Information Leaflet – National supply shortage of your prescribed ADHD medication

## Guanfacine (Intuniv®) prolonged-release tablets

This leaflet is aimed at people taking this medication for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). **People who take guanfacine (Intuniv®) should not stop taking this medication suddenly.**

### Why have I been sent this leaflet?

You have been sent this leaflet as we have identified you are taking this treatment for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Unfortunately, there are widespread national stock shortages of this medicine. Please be assured that healthcare professionals will be reviewing people for alternative therapy where needed.

### Why are there drug shortages?

Shortages are due to manufacturing issues and an increased demand for these drugs internationally.

### How long will the shortage last?

The shortages are expected to improve at various dates between October and December 2023, but these dates are subject to change.

This is a national supply problem and all UK ADHD services (children's, children's and young people's mental health, adults), and pharmacies within the community and hospitals are affected.

### What should I do during this time with my ADHD medication?

You should check the amount of medication you have available and contact your ADHD specialist, if they have not already contacted you, if you have less than 10 days treatment remaining.

### What should I do if I cannot get my ADHD prescription from the pharmacy?

If your usual pharmacy is unable to obtain supplies, please try a different pharmacy. This link will help you find Pharmacies in your local area: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy>

Pharmacies may use different suppliers to source medicines so availability will depend on whether each pharmacy's suppliers have stock. Please try visiting independent pharmacies as well as the larger pharmacy chains, as their suppliers will differ.

Where there is a known shortage of a medicine, supply levels can change quickly. So, it may be best to leave the prescription (FP10) with a pharmacy that could check wholesaler stock levels daily and place an order.

### **Will my ADHD treatment need to change?**

Your ADHD treatment may need to be changed because of the shortage; your ADHD specialist will advise how to do this safely.

### **Will I need a review for my ADHD?**

The shortages may affect different products at different times. Your ADHD prescriber or specialist will let you know if you need a review because of a change to your current medication.

### **Is it safe to stop taking ADHD medication abruptly?**

**No. People who take guanfacine (Intuniv<sup>®</sup>) should **not** stop taking this medication suddenly,** as it can cause your blood pressure to increase unless it is stopped in a planned way. If you are prescribed Guanfacine (Intuniv<sup>®</sup>) please consult your GP or ADHD service as soon as possible if you have a limited supply left and/or you cannot get your prescription from the pharmacy.

### **What do I do if I feel unwell?**

If you feel unwell or unsafe, please seek care through a specialist or in primary care with your pharmacist, GP, NHS 111 online or by phone or in an emergency 999.

### **Where can I get further information about this?**

We do not have any further information about the shortage or return to stock dates at this time. Please bear this in mind before considering contacting your prescriber.