

25 April 2024

## Drugs Used in Treatment of ADHD and Depression

### 1. What specific drugs are most commonly prescribed to treat ADHD (Top 5)?

#### Paediatric Service

Each Clinician will use the NG87 guidance to determine the appropriate use of the following medications.

There are 5 types of medicines licensed and outlined in the NG87 Guidance and guidance links for the treatment of ADHD

These are more specifically known as:

- Medthpheindate - most commonly used in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Lisdexamfetamine
- Dexamfetamine
- Atomoxetine
- Guanfacine

NG87 guidance attached for reference.

### 2. For each year, how many prescriptions of each drug were written from 2014 - 2024?

#### Paediatric Service

It would be an extensive and very time-consuming project to analyse each individual patient's file to determine how many prescriptions of each drug were written from 2014 - 2024. For context there are more than 2500 patients in the ADHD service at present.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

### 3. What specific drugs are most commonly prescribed to treat depression (Top 5)?

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- 4. For each year, how many prescriptions of each drug were written from 2014 - 2024?**

Adult Service

- 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

We are unable to provide the specific information requested as there are a variety of medications that can be used for both ADHD and depression, and it would require a manual exercise to extrapolate the number of prescriptions. The choice of medication will be informed by the specific consultant assessment outcome on an individual case by case basis.