

Dear

ATISN 20887 – Shared Care

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 29 August 2024.

In your email to us, you explained that all GPs in Bridgend refuse to accept shared care, despite NICE guidelines being supportive and your consultant recommending and requesting treatment for ADHD. The explanation given by your GP is that their indemnity insurance does not cover shared care arrangements with organisations other than NHS contracted organisations (for any medication, not just ADHD medication) and that on that basis the Health Board advised that they do not enter into such arrangements.

You have requested the following:

- 1. Please could I be provided with a copy of the advice or directions given to Bridgend GPs about shared care in the circumstances outlined above?*
- 2. Please could you explain the average cost of prescribing and dispensing methylphenidate under a shared care arrangement?*
- 3. Could you please give me an approximate cost of an adult ADHD assessment via the existing NHS route?*

Our Response

- 1 Welsh Government does not hold this information. We suggest that you contact Health Boards who may be able to help you further. A link to the contact details are [here](#). There is an extant circular (WHC/2018/014) which refers to shared care in standard 9. It can be found [here](#).
- 2 The reimbursement price the NHS pays for methylphenidate for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies or dispensing doctors in primary care is the same whether the prescription is issued by a General Practitioner and or a clinician working in secondary care. Similarly, there are no differences in dispensing fees paid to pharmacies as a result of the setting in which the prescriber works. General practitioners do not receive any fees for prescribing methylphenidate under shared care arrangements.

There are a number of different presentations and brands of methylphenidate and the prescribing and dispensing of prescriptions will therefore depend on the specific product and quantity supplied. The reimbursement prices of medicines including the price paid for a range of methylphenidate preparations, are published every month in part VIIIA of the [drug tariff](#). Part IIIA of the drug tariff includes details of the fees pharmacies receive when dispensing prescriptions.

Where medicines are supplied directly from the pharmacy department of a hospital the NHS may pay a 'hospital contract' price which is different to the price the NHS pays for prescriptions dispensed in the community. These prices are commercial in confidence and the Welsh Government does not hold the details of any contract prices agreed between suppliers and hospitals in Wales.

The Welsh Government do not hold the data required to determine average cost of prescribing and dispensing methylphenidate per patient per year. However, in 2022/23 there were 58,555 prescriptions for methylphenidate dispensed in primary care in Wales at a total cost of £1,933,104 making the average price paid per prescription £33.01.

Note: this information was taken from [Primary care prescriptions: interactive dashboard | GOV.WALES](#)

Please note the data for all years since 2001-02 can also be found in the published spreadsheet at

<https://www.gov.wales/primary-care-prescriptions-april-2022-march-2023>

- 3 Within Welsh Government we do not hold information or collect details on the approximate cost of NHS adult ADHD assessments. The cost to implementing adult ADHD assessments from within existing LHB workforce would vary between LHB's. This is due to current differences in workforce profiles and assessment pathways. This is an LHB decision.

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,