

Information for prescribers – update 30 Jan 2025

Current methylphenidate stock issues:

Methylphenidate formulations are experiencing global stock shortages in multiple strengths and formulations

- Teva and Concerta brands of methylphenidate ER have been affected since August 2024
- Rubifen SR (20mg) methylphenidate has become out of stock as at 22nd January 2025
- Ritalin LA – *no current stock issues*
- Immediate release methylphenidate (Rubifen, Ritalin) – *no current stock issues*
- *Alternative ADHD stimulant options: dexamfetamine and lisdexamfetamine – no current stock issues*

Methylphenidate release profiles differ between products

- Methylphenidate extended release – Concerta, Teva – 12 hour release profile
- Methylphenidate sustained release – Rubifen SR – 8 hour release profile
- Methylphenidate long acting – Ritalin LA – 8 hour release profile

Update on Delays

- Rubifen SR 20mg is out of stock “for a short time” – delays at the manufacturing plant have meant that the next shipment will be late – expected to arrive mid-February, and then it will take another 1-2 weeks for stock to reach pharmacies around NZ.
- The next delivery of Teva ER has been delayed until February. Teva advises that restructuring in the Bulgarian Ministry of Health has delayed the issuing of export licences required. There is currently NO supply of Teva with the supplier, but further shipments are planned as per below table
- Concerta – expecting further shipments as per below table

Strength	Concerta	Teva
18mg	Next shipments: late February, end of March	Next shipment: February
27mg	Next shipments: late March, June	Next shipment: February
36mg	Next shipments: April, June	Next shipment: February
54mg	Next shipments: February, May	Next shipment: February

Medicines Bulletin – Methylphenidate

Update – Ongoing Stock Issues/Shortages as at
January 2025



Things to know:

- Consider prescribing methylphenidate *generically* – this will enable the pharmacist to substitute whichever brand is available
- Please DO NOT start people with ADHD on either Teva or Concerta unless absolutely necessary. Consider alternative, shorter duration, methylphenidate formulations, while noting that Rubifen SR is on short supply
- Consider immediate release methylphenidate instead – currently no stock issues
- Check the special authority matches the formulation you are prescribing (**see above**)
 - Medsafe have confirmed that the legal requirements to prescribe a methylphenidate presentation are satisfied regardless of whether the original specialist recommendation was written for “methylphenidate” or a specific presentation of methylphenidate
 - **GPs and Nurse Practitioners can legally apply for an alternative special authority for a methylphenidate presentation**, if needed, provided that all other relevant eligibility criteria are met
- **Lisdexamfetamine** has been listed on the pharmaceutical schedule since December 2024 as an alternative stimulant treatment option, however this requires special authority on the recommendation of a paediatrician or a psychiatrist – this can be prescribed by GPs and Nurse Practitioners
- **Dexamfetamine** is another alternative ADHD stimulant treatment, can also be applied for via special authority on the recommendation of a paediatrician or a psychiatrist – this can be prescribed by GPs and Nurse Practitioners

BRAND AND FORMULATION	SA2412	SA2411
Concerta	✓	
Methylphenidate ER (Teva)		✓
Ritalin LA	✓	
Rubifen SR		✓
Rubifen IR		✓
Ritalin IR		✓

References

[Methylphenidate ER clinical guidance September 2024](#)

[Methylphenidate ER tablets \(Concerta and Teva\): Supply issue - Pharmac | Te Pātaka Whaioranga | NZ Government](#)

[Decision to fund lisdexamfetamine for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder \(ADHD\) - Pharmac | Te Pātaka Whaioranga | NZ Government](#)