

Decision to remove the renewal criteria for stimulant treatments from 1st December 2024

Information for Prescribers

Stimulants affected

Dexamfetamine, methylphenidate and modafinil are stimulant treatments used to treat ADHD and narcolepsy.

From 1st December

- Renewal criteria will be removed from dexamfetamine, methylphenidate and modafinil, making it easier for people who need these treatments to access them.

This means that:

- **SAs no longer expire for these drugs.** Anyone starting on a stimulant treatment which requires a Special Authority approval, will be able to access funded treatment without the requirement for this approval to be renewed every two years (as previous)
- **You don't have to do anything!** Anyone with a current or recent (expired within the last two years) Special Authority approval for these treatments will automatically be issued an approval that is valid without the need for it to be renewed. Pharmac and Health New Zealand will manage this so people do not need to do anything for this to happen

Ongoing care

- Prescribers – medical or nurse practitioners – would need to continue to manage ongoing prescribing and seek specialist input as needed, to consider whether treatment remains appropriate and whether an individual is benefitting from it.

Change to Dexamfetamine Initiation Criteria for Nurse Practitioners

- Pharmac are making a change that affects **nurse practitioners** – this will mean that nurse practitioners can submit a Special Authority (on recommendation or a paediatrician or psychiatrist) for initiation of dexamfetamine for individuals with ADHD aged 5 years or over. This is in line with methylphenidate funding criteria.

REFERENCES

- <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations-and-decisions/decision-to-remove-renewal-criteria-for-adhd-treatments>