Medicines Bulletin – Lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse)

Newly funded for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) from 1st December 2024 via Special Authority

West Coast Health
Community Wellbeing Services

Information for Prescribers

Key points: Lisdexamfetamine is long-acting dexamfetamine, and it's now funded.

Indication for Lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse™):

Lisdexamfetamine is indicated for the treatment of ADHD in children aged 6 years and older and adults. Lisdexamfetamine is an inactive prodrug of dexamfetamine, a central nervous stimulant. It has an extended duration of action and is taken once daily.

Considerations for Use and Monitoring

- Standard considerations for prescribing stimulants apply, including pre-treatment screening (if initiating).
- Monitoring of body weight, blood pressure and heart rate should occur at every dose adjustment and at least every six months.
- Monitoring for the development or worsening of psychiatric disorders, aggressive behaviour, hostility or agitation should occur at every dose adjustment and at least every six months.

Dosing

- Starts at initially 20-30mg once daily in the morning; if required increase in steps of 10-20mg daily at a minimum of weekly intervals. Maximum 70mg daily – **however, only the following capsule strengths will be funded: 30mg, 50mg, 70mg.** Other strengths can likely be ordered in by individual pharmacies, but patients will have to pay for these as they will be unfunded.

- There is a limit of **one capsule per day for the 30mg capsule** – i.e. a 60mg dose will **not be funded as 2x 30mg capsules**. Clinical advisors to PHARMAC have stated that 50mg or 70mg doses would be appropriate for those needing more than 30mg.

Patient Advice

- Capsules may be taken whole or the capsule opened, and the entire contents mixed with a soft food such as yoghurt or a small glass of water or juice. The entire mixture of soft food or liquid should be consumed immediately; it should not be stored
- The ingredients in Vyvanse™ appear to be gluten and lactose free but the company have not confirmed this. The capsules contain gelatin.

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- Initial application **ONLY** from a paediatrician, psychiatrist, **OR** medical practitioner or nurse practitioner **on the recommendation of a paediatrician or psychiatrist (in writing)**
- Approvals valid **without further renewal unless notified**
- **Funded if the following criteria are met:**
    - Patient currently on treatment with lisdexamfetamine and met all remaining criteria prior to commencing treatment, **or**
    - Has ADHD diagnosis; **and** applicant is either paediatrician/psychiatrist or medical practitioner/nurse practitioner and confirms that the patient has been consulted within the last **two** years; **and** any of the following:
        - Currently taking atomoxetine or methylphenidate extended release with no sufficient benefit/experienced intolerable side effects, **or**
        - Currently taking dexamfetamine immediate release or methylphenidate (immediate or sustained release) which has been ineffective due to significant administration and/or adherence difficulties, **or**
        - Significant concern regarding risk of diversion or abuse of immediate release dexamfetamine or immediate release methylphenidate, **or**
        - **BOTH**:
            - Patient would have been prescribed a subsidised formulation of methylphenidate extended release but has been unable to access due to global supply issues, **and**
            - Other alternative stimulant presentations (methylphenidate or dexamfetamine) are not appropriate
    - Lisdexamfetamine is not to be used in combination with another funded **methylphenidate** presentation
- **There is no funding restriction accessing dexamfetamine as an adjunctive treatment option while being prescribed lisdexamfetamine – this may provide greater treatment flexibility for patients and prescribers**

REFERENCES

- https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations-and-decisions/decision-to-fund-lisdexamfetamine-for-the-treatment-of-adhd
- https://nzf.org.nz/nzf_71114
- https://www.adhd.org.nz/pharmac-funds-new-medicine-and-removes-renewal-criteria-for-adhd-treatments.html

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