

## Side effects of non-stimulants (Atomoxetine)

The most common side effects of Atomoxetine are: stomach ache, feeling sick, vomiting, decreased appetite.

Other common side effects are: tiredness, irritability, mood swings, dizziness, sleepiness, indigestion, constipation, flu, weight loss, rash, or itching.

Atomoxetine has been associated with an increased risk of mood swings, hostility, suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide in children and adolescents.

Please discuss with your child's paediatrician if your child is showing any of these symptoms.

**Local Pharmacy** - Your local pharmacies offer a wide range of services including information and general advice on symptom relief medicines, as well as a prescription collection and delivery service.

Call our Bridgewater Patient Services line on **0800 587 0562** for comments, compliments, complaints and to receive impartial and confidential advice or information about our services. You can also contact us if you would like this document in another language or format. Email: [patient.services@bridgewater.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.services@bridgewater.nhs.uk).



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## PAEDIATRIC COMMUNITY MEDICAL SERVICES

### Information for Parents/Carers

### Medicines used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)



## Medicines Used as part of the management of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)

Medication can be helpful to:

- improve concentration
- reduce impulsivity
- decrease hyperactivity

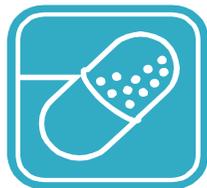
Sometimes the medication can have side effects. This leaflet, as well as the one with each dispensed prescription, tells you about the likely side effects of medications.

## There are two main groups of medication used for the treatment of ADHD in the UK

**Stimulants:** There are two groups of stimulants available:

1. *Methylphenidates*: the brands available in the UK are Ritalin, Equasym, Equasym XL, Concerta XL, Medikinet, Medikinet XL.
2. *Dexamfetamine*: The brand available in the UK is Dexedrine.

**Non stimulants:** There is one non- stimulant available in the UK called Atomoxetine. The brand available is Strattera.



## Side effects of Medicines Used in treatment of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)

All medicines have the potential to produce unwanted reactions which are called side effects. It does not mean that everyone who takes the medicine experiences them. It is better to know what they are, so you can recognise them if they occur.

Some of the side -effects of the medicines used in the treatment of ADHD are given over the page. Detailed lists of side- effects are provided with the **patient information leaflet** when medication is dispensed. **Please read it and keep a copy with you. If your child experiences any side effects that concern you, talk to your GP, the Paediatrician or pharmacist.**

## Side effects of stimulant medicines

The most common side- effects are: difficulty getting off to sleep, decreased appetite, headache, stomach ache and nervousness.

Other common side- effects are: dry mouth, nausea, or vomiting, dizziness, drowsiness, anxiety, depression, irritability, increase in heart beat, raised blood pressure, hair loss, weight loss and increase of ADHD symptoms.

Your child's weight, height and blood pressure will be monitored at regular intervals, to make sure there are no side-effects of medication and to give you the opportunity to discuss ADHD with medical staff.