

Three Chequers Medical Practice incorporating:

Endless Street Surgery
Three Swans Surgery
Winterslow Surgery
Porton & Old Sarum Surgery



Three Chequers Medical Practice

72 Endless Street
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SP1 3UH

T: 01722 336441

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www.3chequers.co.uk

Dear Patient,

I write to you regarding a change in how we are planning to monitor and prescribe adult ADHD medications. We have audited the prescribing of these medications (Methylphenidate, Atomoxetine, Lisdexamfetamine, Dexamfetamine and Guanfacine) and are concerned that a significant proportion of patients are not getting the essential monitoring and/or annual specialist reviews that they should be.

We wish to ensure these medications are being prescribed and monitored safely.

- Monitoring of these medications should be done 6 monthly
- This includes blood pressure, weight and pulse rate
- This can be done at the surgery or sent into us via email if you are able to monitor this at home
- Ideally this monitoring will be done once around your birthday, and once 6 months later. A bit of flexibility may be required initially to organise this.

These medications can be prescribed by a general practitioner under a 'shared care agreement'. This is an agreement between the GP and specialist with specific responsibilities of both parties. It is a voluntary arrangement for which general practitioners are under no obligation to enter into. Prescribing from non-specialists is restricted outside of this 'shared care agreement', and GPs are only allowed to prescribe these medications when the terms of the agreement are met. If a GP has to decline or hand back shared care to the specialist, then the responsibility for ongoing prescriptions would return to the specialist.

The local shared care agreement is clear that the specialist service should review the patient's condition on an annual basis and communicate results to the GP, including weight, blood pressure and pulse (also following dose adjustments) and manage any side effects/complications of these medications.

For now, **we will require this physical monitoring (blood pressure, weight and pulse rate) to be monitored and communicated with us on a 6 monthly basis to allow ongoing prescribing** of the aforementioned medication. This may be done at the surgery (via an appointment with a healthcare assistant or by using the blood pressure machines in the waiting rooms) but we will also accept home monitoring, which is emailed or handed in to the surgery (three.chequers@nhs.net). Without this, regrettably we will be unable to continue prescribing and would have to stop further prescriptions.

Partners: Dr Jeremy Howell · Dr Craig Kyte
Dr Michele Giorgi · Dr Helen Drayson · Dr Timothy Moody
Dr Peter Moody · Dr Hannah Clarke · Dr Daniel O'Sullivan

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Register for Systmonline - The services are open **24/7/365** and can be accessed from your home PC, Tablet or Mobile phone

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We do entirely appreciate that the underfunding and inadequacies of other services responsible for these medications is not the fault of our patients. We understand that there is a review of this situation occurring across our area, and it is possible that there will be changes made in the coming year. However, we remain responsible for the safety of our prescribing and are making these changes to try to improve safe prescribing.

If you are having difficulties arranging or achieving an annual review with the local NHS / AWP (Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS trust) ADHD service, or are having issues with your medication that require specialist review, please contact 01275796262 or email awp.specialisedADHDservices@nhs.net. There are a small number of patients where the overseeing specialist service is an online 'right to choose' provider, (such as Psychiatry UK) who would need to contact them directly in a similar situation.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Kind regards,

The Partners at Three Chequers Medical Practice

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