Guanfacine for the management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of guanfacine is not accepted in Devon for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults.

The Formulary Interface Group should not include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Guanfacine is not licensed for adults with ADHD.

Evidence for efficacy in adults with ADHD is extremely limited. Guanfacine was shown to be more effective than placebo at reducing the symptoms of ADHD in adults over the short term in a 10-week RCT and a small 2-week crossover study. There is no evidence that guanfacine has superior efficacy over other established, licensed ADHD drugs, and there is no evidence to suggest that guanfacine would be effective in patients who have failed to respond to existing options.

The cost-effectiveness of guanfacine for adults with ADHD is unknown but average treatment costs are higher than currently available, licensed options.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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