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Dear SENDCo

You may have heard that there is a global shortage of many types of ADHD medicines due to a combination of manufacturing issues and an increase in global demand. This will affect pupils who are taking ADHD medication as well as those waiting to start treatment and it will be a difficult time for children, young people and their families. Unfortunately neither ADHD clinicians nor GPs can do anything to help with supply issues but we want to provide you with as much information as we can to try to help during this time.

Impact of ADHD medication shortages

The medication shortages mean that it is very likely that children/young people in your school will have an unplanned break in their ADHD treatment or will be taking less medication than usual. The national guidance is also that new ADHD medication cannot be started which will mean a significant delay for anyone waiting to start medication. The supply issues are expected to resolve at various dates over the coming months.

In school you are likely to see that, for those children and young people affected, their concentration and focus is reduced, they are more active and more impulsive. During this period of shortage in medication we ask you to extend every understanding to pupils affected and to review the support you can provide for them in school.

Recommendations for support in school

- NICE Guidance recommend:
 - identifying strengths and building on these
 - providing reasonable adjustments and environmental modifications such as changes to seating arrangements, changes to lighting and noise, reducing distractions (for example, using headphones)



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- optimising work or education to have shorter periods of focus with movement breaks (including the use of 'I need a break' cards)
 - reinforcing verbal requests with written instructions
 - the appropriate use of teaching assistants at school
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- There is a wide range of helpful resources on the ADHD Foundation website and these include
[Teaching-and-Managing-Students-with-ADHD.pdf \(adhdfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/teaching-and-managing-students-with-adhd.pdf)
[The EPIC Strategy Booklet: a guide for teachers \(adhdfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/the-epic-strategy-booklet-a-guide-for-teachers)
[REFOCUSING ON ADHD IN EDUCATION \(adhdfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/refocusing-on-adhd-in-education)
 - PPEPCare training: the ADHD Team provide free training for professionals working with children and young people diagnosed with ADHD which can be booked via our website
[PPEPCare Training | Children Young People and Families Online Resource \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/ppepcare-training)

Please look at our [website](#) for more information as well as advice and support for parents and carers

Yours sincerely



Michelle Walton
Team Lead
ADHD Pathway

Enclosures
Information for young people on ADHD medication shortages



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