



Oriel House, 26 The Quadrant, Richmond TW9 1DL
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PRESS RELEASE 28th November 2023

ADHD medication has been out of stock for many since the [NHS issued a Patient Safety Alert](#)¹ on the 27th September 2023.

The alert said that “the supply disruptions are expected to resolve at various dates between October and December 2023”.

Today we announce that the main ADHD medication provider Takeda has told us that they expect the ADHD medication issues to continue until April 2024.

Our survey shows the vast majority impacted - with just 8% unaffected. Most people who receive ADHD medication have either had no medication or gaps in medication. Takeda report an expansion of their “intermittent supply” issues until April.

We report the findings of our survey about ADHD medication, which shows the failure of government advice and the devastating impact of the loss of ADHD medication to people with the condition. Over 62% of respondents who take medication for their condition have had suicidal thoughts or an increase in suicidal thoughts since the start of the crisis.

“The Government continues to utterly fail those with ADHD. The failure to take ADHD seriously has resulted in waiting lists of up to 10.5 years for adults and up to 5 years for children. We today find out that despite Government promises to work and resolve this with manufacturers the ADHD medication crisis is extending to April 2024. With no real assurances it won't extend further. We're calling for the government to put in place a support for those impacted - to help people impacted keep their jobs, preserve their education, and fundamentally to ensure we don't lose anyone to suicide.” ~ Henry Shelford. CEO & Co-founder of ADHD UK. Henry has ADHD and is personally impacted by the medication crisis.

Survey Results

Survey from 18th November 2023 to the 27th November 2023. Total respondents: 1054

(Please note that individual questions have different numbers of people answering)

¹ <https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103238>



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- 94% are dissatisfied with the government's response. *When asked "Do you agree with the following: I am satisfied with the government's actions during this ADHD medication crisis"*.
- 97% have been impacted by the ADHD medication supply issue.
- Only 15% of people (with an ADHD prescription) were actively contacted by their GP (as required by the National Patient Alert). 25% have still had no contact. 11% had their prescriptions stopped to force them to contact their GP. This has made the situation worse as individuals, instead of automatic renewal, were forced to join the morning race for a GP appointment
- Only 13% of people with an ADHD prescription are satisfied with their GP's actions. The majority are dissatisfied.
- The vast majority have had their personal medication impacted. Only 8% have had uninterrupted medication. 27% have had no medication since the supply issues started, 33% have had long gaps and 25% have had short gaps.
- 70% have rationed their medication (taken days without or taken partial pills).
- 91% of those who take ADHD medication are concerned on the impact on their job with 44% overall concerned they may lose their job.
- 92% of those who take ADHD medication and in education are concerned about the impact on their grades and future prospects.
- 75% of those who take ADHD medication and in a relationship are concerned about the impact on their relationship. With 28% thinking they may lose the relationship.
- ADHD has a much [higher suicide rate than the baseline](#)² with 1 in 10 men with ADHD trying to take their own lives and 1 in 4 women with ADHD trying to take their own lives. **Our research shows an increase in individuals with new suicidal thoughts or increased suicidal thoughts of 38%.**

We are calling for the government to:

- **Create a national commission to recommend a strategy for medication supply issues like this one.** The ADHD medication supply issue is not a solitary event. These issues are collectively common. **We are calling for the government to create a strategy to identify those most in need and get medication to them. 98% of our respondents agree.**
- **Accelerate the Access to work disability job support system for those impacted by the ADHD medication crisis.** Help people keep their jobs by adding those struggling without ADHD medication to the priority queue for

² <https://adhduk.co.uk/adhd-uk-adhd-media-briefing-page/>



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Access to Work support. The priority queue is around a 2-week wait. The non-priority queue is 5 months. People need help now – not in 5 months.

- **Create a support package and strategy for schools.**
 - Commission the Department of Education to issue guidance to exam boards. There are exams in January and an impact on the summer exams. Exam boards need to know what adjustments to make and the government needs to ensure a budget to implement those adjustments.
 - Commission the Department of Education to produce a support package for schools.

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Appendix 1 : Detailed Results

Do you agree with the following: I am satisfied with the government's actions during this ADHD medication crisis.

94% are dissatisfied with the Government's Response to the ADHD Medication Crisis

Do you agree with the following: I am satisfied with the government's actions during this ADHD medication crisis.

1. Strongly agree	27	3%
2. Agree	2	0%
3. Neutral	30	3%
4. Disagree	129	14%
5. Strongly disagree	765	80%
TOTAL	953	

Have you been impacted by the ADHD medication supply issues?

97% of people with an ADHD diagnosis have been impacted by the ADHD Medication Supply issues.

Have you been impacted by the ADHD medication supply issues?

No	28	3%
Yes	831	97%
Total	859	



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Have you been in touch with your GP regarding you ADHD medication and this situation?

Have you been in touch with your GP regarding your ADHD medication and this situation?		
I contacted my GP (They did not contact me)	269	31%
I've not had any contact	213	25%
My GP got in touch with me by electronic message (text, email, app)	123	14%
My GP practice arranged for me to have a GP appointment	10	1%
My prescription renewal was stopped to force me to contact my GP	94	11%
Other	152	18%
Total	861	

Do you agree with the following: I am satisfied with my GP's actions during this ADHD medication crisis.

Only 13% of people with ADHD medication are satisfied with their GP's action.

Do you agree with the following: I am satisfied with my GP's actions during this ADHD medication crisis.		
1. Strongly agree	29	3%
2. Agree	82	10%
3. Neutral	283	33%
4. Disagree	150	18%
5. Strongly disagree	310	36%
Total	854	

How has your medication been impacted?

How has your medication been impacted?		
No medication since supply issue began	230	27%
Long gaps	282	33%
Short gaps	214	25%
No gaps	73	8%
Total	861	



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What actions have you taken?

I've rationed by medication	603	70%
I've spoken to my pharmacist	550	64%
I've called around multiple pharmacies	587	68%
I've taken out of date medication	84	10%
Total	861	

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned about the impact of this crisis on my job performance

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned about the impact of this crisis on my job performance		
1. Strongly agree	404	68%
2. Agree	135	23%
3. Neutral	22	4%
4. Disagree	5	1%
5. Strongly disagree	24	4%
Total	590	

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned I may lose my job because of the ADHD medication crisis?

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned I may lose my job because of the ADHD medication crisis?		
1. Strongly agree	122	21%
2. Agree	137	23%
3. Neutral	163	28%
4. Disagree	127	22%
5. Strongly disagree	41	7%
Total	590	



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Do you agree with the following? I am concerned I about the impact on my grades and future prospects from the impact of this ADHD medication crisis.

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned I about the impact on my grades and future prospects from the impact of this ADHD medication crisis.		
1. Strongly agree	153	81%
2. Agree	22	12%
3. Neutral	5	3%
4. Disagree	1	1%
5. Strongly disagree	9	5%
Total	190	

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned about the impact of this crisis on my relationship

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned about the impact of this crisis on my relationship		
1. Strongly agree	163	31%
2. Agree	228	44%
3. Neutral	61	12%
4. Disagree	45	9%
5. Strongly disagree	23	4%
Total	520	



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Do you agree with the following? I am concerned I will lose my relationship due to the impact of this medication crisis.

Do you agree with the following? I am concerned I will lose my relationship due to the impact of this medication crisis.		
1. Strongly agree	56	11%
2. Agree	91	18%
3. Neutral	117	23%
4. Disagree	148	28%
5. Strongly disagree	108	21%
Total	520	

ADHD has a high rate of suicide. ADHD UK has been lobbying that there should be a scheme to identify those most at risk of suicide and a scheme to get medication to them. Do you support this?

ADHD has a high rate of suicide. ADHD UK has been lobbying that there should be a scheme to identify those most at risk of suicide and a scheme to get medication to them. Do you support this?		
Yes	807	98%
No	20	2%
Total	827	

Are you having suicidal thoughts, or increased suicidal thoughts, as a result of the ADHD medication crisis? [Those who are taking ADHD medication]

Are you having suicidal thoughts, or increased suicidal thoughts, as a result of the ADHD medication crisis?		
No	593	62%
Yes	362	38%
Total	955	