

GP ADHD Shared Care Program:

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Flowchart Guide for the prescribing of S8 Stimulants, SA

Updated June 2025

ADHD diagnosis confirmed by a relevant Specialist (i.e. Paediatrician or Psychiatrist)



Specialist report supports treatment with schedule 8 stimulants, & for a GP to prescribe for patient and monitor treatment.



GP submits a Section 18A Authority* application to DDU, with copy of specialist report. (Different to a PBS prescription authority)



Applications are reviewed by the DDU on a case-by-case basis. In complex cases, where there may be concerns of drug seeking/illicit drug use/drug dependence, DDU may require additional information (i.e., a management plan, urine drug screen results, etc).



If approved, the initial authority is generally granted for up to 12 months*. The Authority can be found in ScriptCheckSA & may contain additional conditions (i.e. staged supply from a designated pharmacy, urine drug screening)



GP continues to check ScriptCheckSA (mandatory) for dispensing & prescribing data. GP to advise DDU if there any significant changes/concerns throughout treatment (i.e., illicit drug use, psychosis). GP should also notify the treating specialist of any significant changes/response to treatment for additional clinical advice.



When authority approaches the expiry date, apply for **renewal** of authority (via ScriptCheckSA, fax or email) and allow for sufficient time for DDU to review.

New Applications for Authorities:

*A prescriber must hold a Section 18A authority to prescribe schedule 8 medicine(s) when treatment has exceeded 2 months.

Applications for Renewal:

In stable cases, an updated specialist report is not routinely required, unless there have been changes to treatment or if the previous review was greater than 5 years ago.

In complex cases, or when there are risk factors or concerns regarding dependence, misuse or diversion, DDU may require an updated report at time of renewal.

ADHD treatment for Children

Authorities for the prescribing of schedule 8 stimulants for children are typically granted until the child turns 19 years of age. An updated report **may be requested by the DDU when treatment transitions from childhood to adult ADHD and a new authority is required.

For further information:

Australasian ADHD Health Professionals Association

<https://aadpa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Adult-ADHD-State-Regulations-Stimulant-Prescribing-Matrix-Updated-August-2021.pdf>

<https://aadpa.com.au/adhd-stimulant-prescribing-regulations-in-australia-new-zeal/>

ScriptCheckSA

Email: Health.RTPM@sa.gov.au

Website: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/scriptchecksa

Drugs of Dependence Unit

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