



# Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch

## Patient Fact Sheet

### The Stimulant Regulatory Scheme

#### What are stimulants?

Stimulant medicines include:

- dexamfetamine (dexamphetamine),
- lisdexamfetamine (lisdexamphetamine, Vyvanse®)
- methylphenidate (Ritalin®, Concerta® or Ritalin LA®).

They affect how the brain controls impulses and regulates behaviour and attention. They stimulate the central nervous system, increasing activity of certain brain chemicals.

Stimulants are used in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), narcolepsy, depression, acquired brain injury and binge eating disorder.

#### Prescribing and supply

The prescribing and supply of stimulant medicines is restricted by law as they have a high risk for abuse and diversion.

In Western Australia, stimulants may only be prescribed by specialist medical practitioners. Approved specialists include: psychiatrists, paediatricians, neurologists, and thoracic, respiratory and sleep or rehabilitation physicians.

All specialist prescribers must also be authorised by the Department of Health.

An authorised specialist can nominate a general practitioner (GP) to assist with prescribing (a co-prescriber). A co-prescriber can't alter the drug or dose.

For daily doses over a certain limit, or where there are high risk medical conditions, the

specialist must first seek permission to prescribe.

The prescription needs to specify how often the stimulant can be dispensed, and the pharmacist must follow these directions. Prescriptions must also be kept at the one pharmacy.

#### Information collected

The Department of Health collects information on stimulants to meet legal requirements, ensure quality prescribing, and to identify trends and problems. Not providing this information may affect your ability to access stimulant medicines.

When commencing treatment for each patient the specialist must complete a notification form. The notification includes the patient's name, address, date of birth, Medicare number, weight (for children), condition being treated and the stimulant prescribed.

Occasionally your doctor may request a urine drug screen to meet conditions of the Stimulant Regulatory Scheme. You might need to provide consent to supply the results to the Department of Health.

Information collected is kept private. It is not shared with any other part of Government and is not accessible to public hospitals, private doctors or community pharmacists. No one else can access your information.

#### More information

For more information on stimulants visit the Department of Health website at:  
[ww2.health.wa.gov.au/stimulants](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/stimulants)  
[www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/stimulant](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/stimulant)