

Date 12/08/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10342

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GUANFACINE PRESCRIBING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to guanfacine prescribing,

### Question:

- This is a FOI request on procedures and policies of the adult psychiatry units of NHS Scotland - Lothians.

I request all information on the pathways through which guanfacine can be prescribed to adult psychiatry patients for relevant symptoms and conditions (e.g. Including but not limited to ADHD, borderline personality disorder, etc).

### Answer:

Prescribing guidance for Guanfacine is publicly available on the East Region Formulary website [Formulary | East Region Formulary](#)

#### **Guanfacine**

- *Guanfacine modified release tablets are an alternative non-stimulant agent with a different mode of action to other licensed treatments.*
- *Guanfacine is a non-stimulant and can be used as an alternative to atomoxetine in children and adolescents from the age of 6 years, as part of a comprehensive ADHD treatment programme. Currently some Boards have Shared Care Agreements in place to facilitate prescribing in Primary Care.*
- *Guanfacine is indicated for use tic disorder in patients with coexisting ADHD.*
- *Patients are advised to contact the specialist service if more than one dose of guanfacine is missed.*
- *Seek advice from pharmacy team, or information sources such as [SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service](#), [NEWT Guidelines](#) or [Medicines For Children](#) if any issues with swallowing or alternative route of administration required as this may result in off-label prescribing.*

Headquarters  
Mainpoint  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board*

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002  
- Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

Guanfacine is not licensed for use in adults, therefore there is no specific pathway for adult patients to access the medicine.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive