

## GP information

# ADHD Shared Care

Community Paediatrics is transitioning to a new shared care model for children and young people with ADHD in Sydney Local Health District. This model has been developed in partnership with CESPAN and is supported by recent NSW legislative changes enabling a greater role for GPs in ADHD management. The focus is on strengthening collaboration between paediatricians and GPs to improve access to ADHD services for families.



## What will this mean for children and young people?



- Paediatricians will continue to complete the ADHD assessment, diagnosis and initial treatment stabilisation.
- Once a child's medication is stable, GPs will be invited to partner with Community Paediatrics to provide ongoing ADHD care, including continuation prescribing of stimulant medications.
- Ongoing ADHD reviews will continue to occur every 6 months, alternating between the paediatrician and GP.
- Paediatricians will provide an ADHD management plan, guidance regarding ongoing prescribing, and will provide advice or clinical oversight as required.

## GP responsibilities in the shared care model



Complete an NSW Health endorsed ADHD training program to be eligible for continuation prescribing.

Expanding access to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) management:

<https://shorturl.at/MpSM4>



Apply via Safescript for a general authority to prescribe psychostimulant medications.

SafeScript NSW:

<https://shorturl.at/Qiv5S>



Provide an annual ADHD review and prescriptions for ADHD medication.



Escalate any clinical concerns to the ADHD shared care coordinator.

## How shared care works

1

**Identify suitable patients & obtain informed consent**

2

**Specialist provides comprehensive handover**

- Current ADHD Care
- Medication & Dose
- Guidance for Prescribing
- Next paediatrician appointment

3

**Paediatrician refers to shared care coordinator**

4

**GP contacted to initiate shared care**

5

**GP completes ADHD training & gains authority**

- ADHD training
- Authority to prescribe

6

**Ongoing GP & paediatrician reviews & prescriptions**

A dedicated ADHD Shared Care Coordinator has been recruited to support the shared care model, the role will help partnerships between paediatricians and GPs, and guide families through the transition to ensure continuity of ADHD care.

When a paediatrician identifies a child as suitable for shared care, the coordinator will contact the GP directly to invite them to participate.

The coordinator then provides support with completing the required training and obtaining authority to prescribe stimulant medication, helping GPs confidently begin their role in shared care.

## Clinical Support and Escalation

Shared care protocols have been developed to provide GPs with clear guidance on ongoing ADHD management, including defined pathways for escalating clinical concerns. GPs can request clinical advice or an urgent paediatric review as needed, with responses provided within five working days for clinical advice and within three working days for urgent review.

The shared care coordinator can be contacted on:

✉ [SLHD-ComPaedIntake@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SLHD-ComPaedIntake@health.nsw.gov.au)

☎ **9562 5400 (Option 3)**

In addition, a ADHD Shared Care HealthPathway has been developed to assist GPs with point of care decision making and can be accessed at:

<https://sydney.communityhealthpathways.org/>



# Training and Resources

Community Paediatrics is developing a series of education sessions to strengthen GP confidence and capability in ADHD management. GPs can register for these sessions through My Education on the CESPHE website at <https://cesphn.org.au/general-practice/education-and-events> In practice education sessions are also available, and GPs interested in arranging a session for their practice are encouraged to contact the Shared Care Coordinator.

Other useful online resources:

## Training:

- NSW Health ADHD Co-Management Care for General Practitioners  
<https://short-courses.sydney.edu.au/course/ADHD>
- NSW Health-Continuation Prescribing  
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/doctors/Pages/adhd-management-prescribes.aspx>
- NSW Health-SafeScript NSW Education and Training  
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/safescript/practitioners/Pages/education-training.aspx>

## Guidelines:

- Australasian ADHD Professional Association (AADPA) Australian Evidence Based ADHD Clinical Practice Guideline (2022)  
<https://aadpa.com.au/product/australian-adhd-guideline/>
- AADPA ADHD Prescribing Guide for Australian ADHD Professionals (2025)  
<https://aadpa.com.au/adhd-prescribing-guide/>

# Working Together in Shared Care

The Community Paediatric team are excited about this initiative and the opportunity to strengthen our collaborative approach to caring for children and young people with ADHD. By working closely together, we can enhance the quality of ADHD care across Sydney Local Health District and improve access to assessments and ongoing support.

If you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to assist you during this transition, please do not hesitate to contact the Shared Care Coordinator.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

