Grŵp Strategaeth Meddyginiaethau Cymru Gyfan
All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

Licensed One Wales Medicines Assessment Group Recommendation
Guanfacine (Intuniv®) prolonged release (PR) tablet

Date of advice: May 2025
AWTTC reference number: 6440

Guanfacine (Intuniv®) PR is recommended for use within NHS Wales for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents 6 to 17 years old for whom stimulants are not suitable, not tolerated or have been shown to be ineffective. Guanfacine (Intuniv®) PR must be used as a part of a comprehensive ADHD treatment programme, typically including psychological, educational and social measures.

This recommendation has been endorsed by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) and ratified by Welsh Government.

This recommendation will be considered for review after three years.

This advice replaces the AWMSG recommendation previously issued in June 2016 (AWTTC reference number 2361).

AWTTC
All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre
Canolfan Therapiwteg a Thocsicoleg Cymru Gyfan

Licensed Medicines One Wales Medicine Assessment Group summary of decision rationale

Medicine: **Guanfacine (Intuniv®)**
Assessment type: **Limited**
Indication: **Treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents 6 to 17 years old for whom stimulants are not suitable, not tolerated or have been shown to be ineffective. Guanfacine must be used as a part of a comprehensive ADHD treatment programme, typically including psychological, educational and social measures.**

Meeting date: **7 April 2025**

Criteria	LOWMAG opinion
Clinical effectiveness	The scrutiny panel acknowledged that clinical effectiveness is already established and therefore no clinical effectiveness evidence was presented or considered by LOWMAG.
Cost-effectiveness	As this is a limited assessment cost effectiveness is not considered.
Budget impact	LOWMAG considers the estimates of patient numbers to be reasonable. LOWMAG agrees that the most appropriate comparator is atomoxetine. LOWMAG considers that the base case ranges provided in the report are reasonable estimates of the costs associated with the use of guanfacine to NHS Wales. LOWMAG acknowledges that there is already significant uptake and NHS Wales spend on guanfacine from all health boards in Wales and that some health boards have made guanfacine routinely available for a number of years. Therefore, LOWMAG considers that the actual budget impact of making guanfacine routinely available throughout Wales will be lower than that predicted in the base case. LOWMAG noted that the clinical expert in attendance at the meeting stated that the majority of patients receive guanfacine at a dose much lower than the maximum dose used (4 mg vs 7 mg). The maximum dose was used to estimate the upper limit of the base case range and LOWMAG considers that the Year 5 upper limit is likely to be an overestimate of budget impact. LOWMAG acknowledges that additional monitoring and adverse event treatment costs have not been included in the budget impact estimates. LOWMAG considers that these costs are expected to be similar for both guanfacine and atomoxetine.

Resource use	LOWMAG note that treatment with guanfacine is unlikely to be associated with significant additional resource use compared with atomoxetine. More frequent blood pressure checks on initiation of guanfacine was noted. The group consider any potential additional resource use to not be significant.
Other factors	LOWMAG noted that an AWMSG negative recommendation for the use of guanfacine in NHS Wales was issued in 2016 following a full HTA. LOWMAG noted that the NICE guideline NG87: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: diagnosis and management recommends the use of atomoxetine or guanfacine as a third-line treatment option and that this guideline is followed in NHS Wales for the treatment of ADHD in children and young people. LOWMAG noted that, following the publication of the NICE guideline, some health boards in Wales have made guanfacine available for routine prescribing. LOWMAG also note that guanfacine is available in Scotland following appraisal by SMC. LOWMAG agrees that there is an inequity of routine access to guanfacine in NHS Wales and in comparison to the other nations in the UK, resulting in an unmet clinical need in some areas of Wales. LOWMAG acknowledges that, although clinicians in health boards where guanfacine is not routinely available are able to prescribe it to suitable patients, a request for funding either through Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) or non-formulary request has to be made for each case. This requires additional resource in terms of clinician, pharmacy and IPFR panel/local prescribing committee time and delays commencement of treatment. The wait and uncertainty of the outcome can also cause the patient and their family additional anxiety. Enabling routine access to guanfacine will free up NHS Wales resource required to complete and process IPFR/non-formulary requests, enable treatment to start sooner and alleviate unnecessary stress for patients and families. LOWMAG acknowledges that clinical experts have indicated that that guanfacine can be more effective and better tolerated than atomoxetine in children with ADHD and certain co-morbidities including autistic spectrum complex (ASC), tics, learning disabilities, disordered sleep and hyperkinesis. LOWMAG acknowledges the testimonies of some clinicians in NHS Wales who report that guanfacine has

	significantly improved quality of life for some of their patients and their families, allowing return to full-time schooling, being able to access coping strategies and participate in family events.
Final recommendation	LOWMAG recommends the use of guanfacine (Intuniv®) for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents 6 to 17 years old for whom stimulants are not suitable, not tolerated or have been shown to be ineffective. Guanfacine must be used as a part of a comprehensive ADHD treatment programme, typically including psychological, educational and social measures.
Summary of rationale	LOWMAG acknowledge that there is inequity of routine access to guanfacine for the treatment of ADHD in children and young people in NHS Wales and in comparison to the other nations in the UK, resulting in an unmet clinical need in some areas of Wales, LOWMAG recognises that guanfacine is included in the NICE clinical guideline NG87; clinicians state this guideline is followed in NHS Wales for the diagnosis and management of ADHD. LOWMAG consider that making guanfacine routinely available throughout NHS Wales will have a low budget impact and service impact.