



An announcement by Minister Greg Hunt on Saturday 30th January regarding the removal of the age restriction on Vyvanse taking effect on 1st February 2021. This announcement was followed by various media coverage and appearance on television congratulating this government initiative. The ADHD Foundation felt it was necessary to provide additional information to our ADHD communities and therefore we have developed this Q&A sheet from your questions to us. It is likely that your prescriber/psychiatrist will already be able to answer these or any other questions that you might have. However, we thought it important to inform our community and in particular of the “retrospective” diagnosis that seems to not have been highlighted so far. Please email us on office@adhd.foundation.org.au if you would like a PDF copy of this information.

QUESTION: My psychiatrist/prescriber has already diagnosed me with ADHD and I am paying full price for my Vyvanse, do I have to change anything?

ANSWER: If you want to have your medication prescribed under the new PBS listed item number you MUST get a new script:

QUESTION Can my psychiatrist/prescriber amend my current script?

ANSWER No, your psychiatrist/prescriber must issue a NEW script with the PBS authority code written on it. This is because your current script is a private script

QUESTION How does my psychiatrist/prescriber obtain the PBS authority code?

ANSWER Your psychiatrist/prescriber will call their usual authority line to obtain the PBS authority code or request an authority online. Your prescriber/psychiatrist will understand the retrospective” diagnosis requirements.

QUESTION I haven’t had an ADHD diagnosis yet and I am over 18 years what do I need to do?

ANSWER There is little change to the process to determine and obtain a diagnosis of ADHD after the age of 18. Prior to Vyvanse being listed on the PBS on the February 2021. It was usually necessary for your psychiatrist/prescriber to determine that your symptoms were present prior to turning 18years. As ADHD is a lifelong condition and ADHD is present now it is logical that it was present in childhood. However, your psychiatrist/prescriber will need to meet the “retrospective diagnosis” PBS requirements in order to have government subsidy (PBS) approval criteria in order to get Vyvanse on the PBS.

QUESTION Why do I need to have to have my psychiatrist/prescriber conduct a full diagnosis in order to obtain Vyvanse on the PBS?

ANSWER It has always been necessary to have a full assessment to determine an ADHD Diagnosis and be prescribed any ADHD medication as treatment. ADHD is a complex condition and the government regulations require that your prescriber/psychiatrist is able to diagnose a “retrospective diagnosis that occurred prior to the age of 18 years. This is a PBS requirement in order to have a PBS approved script.

QUESTION Is Vyvanse still available in all strengths as a private script?

ANSWER Yes, Vyvanse is available as a private script in all strengths.

QUESTION Is Vyvanse still available in all strengths as a PBS approved script?

ANSWER Yes, Vyvanse is available as an approved PBS script in all strengths (subject to meeting the PBS of a “retrospective diagnosis”

QUESTION My psychiatrist/prescriber prescribes me a mix of different medications can I still obtain this treatment?

ANSWER State Legislation around prescribing levels of treatment required, is governed at State government level. Each state has their own set of legislative requirements. Your psychiatrist/prescriber will be aware of any restrictions imposed by their state.

QUESTION Is the government subsidy (PBS listed medications) governed at State level?

ANSWER No, government subsidies (PBS listed medications) is governed at National level.

QUESTION Where can I find more information about the PBS restrictions in regards to a Vyvanse PBS script?

ANSWER You will find more information relating to PBS restrictions on the following website.
<https://www.pbs.gov.au/medicine/item/10474g-10486x-10492f>

This information has been obtained from information supplied to us from the Services Australia who administer the Medicare/PBS authorities and created as a guide for the ADHD Community. Your prescriber/psychiatrist will be able to provide you with information relevant to your individual circumstances.