

## EVIDENCE SUMMARY

### DEXTROAMPHETAMINE SULFATE (DEXEDRINE® SPANSULE) FOR THE TREATMENT OF STIMULANT USE DISORDER

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#### TREATMENT FOR STIMULANT USE DISORDER

- There is a need to identify safe alternatives for cocaine and methamphetamine use.<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- While psychosocial treatments may reduce stimulant use,<sup>4</sup> a pharmacological alternative could help maintain positive outcomes longer term.<sup>5</sup>
- Several studies have tested the feasibility, safety, and effectiveness of various psychostimulants as treatment options.<sup>5,6</sup>

#### EVIDENCE FOR DEXTROAMPHETAMINE

- Dextroamphetamine has shown promise; compared to placebo, it may improve retention<sup>7,8</sup> and reduce stimulant use,<sup>8,9,10</sup> withdrawal, and cravings.<sup>10,11</sup>
- In the injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) setting, a study of patients receiving diacetylmorphine showed that dextroamphetamine is a safe and effective treatment for cocaine use disorder, with no serious adverse events.<sup>12</sup>
- Work to further explore the role of dextroamphetamine in iOAT is ongoing, supported by the Providence Health Care Knowledge Translation Challenge.<sup>13</sup>

#### CROSSTOWN CLINIC EXPERIENCE

- Dextroamphetamine is indicated for the treatment of narcolepsy and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and is prescribed off-label to patients at Crosstown Clinic for the treatment of stimulant use disorder.
- Patients receive sustained release oral dextroamphetamine capsules up to 60 mg per day twice a day; most patients take a lower dose. Doses are taken at the on-site pharmacy.
- Consistent with other findings, Crosstown Clinic patients that have maintained this treatment report reduced cravings for and use of cocaine and/or methamphetamine.

#### PATIENT AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Dextroamphetamine is a safe medication; studies show very low rates of adverse events<sup>7,8,9,11,12</sup> and no concern regarding medication diversion,<sup>14</sup> suggesting that this treatment should be promoted among patients with stimulant use disorder.

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**Dextroamphetamine  
is a safe and  
effective treatment  
for stimulant use  
disorder**  
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