

## DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

### DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/FORM:

**Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5mL sugar free  
and Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml  
oral suspension**

### PROBLEM

- Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5mL sugar free oral suspension is out of stock until **early July 2024**
- **Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension is out of stock until mid-March 2024**
- **Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg tablets remain available and can support increased demand.**

### ADVICE / ALTERNATIVE

Until co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension is back in stock, clinicians/prescribers should consider if co-trimoxazole is the most appropriate antibiotic of choice for the patient's condition and whether there is a suitable alternative.

Where co-trimoxazole is required

- Consider prescribing co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg tablets, either half a tablet or full tablet, where patients are on a dose of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg or 80mg/400mg respectively.
- Co-trimoxazole tablets may be crushed.
- reserve any remaining oral suspension for patients not deliverable by tablet form or for patients on enteral feeding tubes.
- If the patient is unable to swallow tablets, they may be crushed and mixed in a small amount of water/apple puree/soft food before administration.
- For patients on enteral feeding tubes there is an increased risk of tube blockage if crushed/dispersed tablets are used so is not recommended.

Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5mL oral suspension sugar free

- This product is licensed for patients aged > 12 years.
  - Use in younger patients is off label.
- This product contains different excipients to co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension (See Table 1.)
  - It may not be as palatable for some children.
  - It is not suitable for patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance, glucose-galactose malabsorption or sucrose-isomaltase insufficiency.

NOTE: 5ml of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg oral suspension = 2.5ml of the co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension.

Table 1: Excipients specific to each presentation

<b>Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free</b>	<b>Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension</b>
Sorbitol solution 70% (non crystallising) (E420 ii) Sodium Carmellose Sodium Benzoate (E211) Flavour, Banana 81.605P	Syrup or sucrose Sodium carboxymethylcellulose (E467) Ammonium glycyrrhizinate Star Anise Oil

### **ACTIONS**

Where co-trimoxazole oral suspension is required and unavailable:

- Consider prescribing co-trimoxazole 480mg tablets.
- Ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients.
- Counsel on the appropriate dose and volume.

### **Key Documents**

[SmPC - Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension](#)

[SmPC - Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension](#)

[SmPC – Co-trimoxazole tablets](#)

[BNF – Co-trimoxazole](#)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD BASED PHARMACY TEAM  
OR  
THE PHARAMCY DEPARTEMENT (CITY ext.5263; SANDWELL ext.3783).  
OUT OF HOURS CONTACT THE ON-CALL PHARAMCIST**

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