

FAO: All prescribers and nurses and pharmacists working at Somerset Foundation Trust (including CMH and MIUs) and Yeovil District Hospital

From: Katie Heard on behalf of antimicrobial steering committee (katie.heard@somersetft.nhs.uk, 07721325612)

Situation:

There is a currently national shortage of liquid antibiotics (**phenoxymethylpenicillin, amoxicillin, macrolide**)

- Supplies of tablets are currently available
- TTA packs have been affected across all preparations
- Central procurement systems are working closely with pharmacy wholesalers and hospitals

Action

- **Do not issue phenoxymethylpenicillin, amoxicillin or macrolide liquids to children >1years at present nor write a FP10 for liquids for children >1 as these need to be reserved. (Except in exceptional circumstances, learning difficulties, tube fed).**
- **Follow the below guidance on preparation supplied**
- **Out of pharmacy working hours if there are no suitable TTA packs available:**
 - **Give a single dose from ward stock of the first choice BD regimen and give FP10 or outpatient prescription for further supplies**

Issuing penicillin antibiotics (Dosing suggestions for group A strep) see BNFC for dosing specific to indication for other indications

Age	First line abx and dose	Second line abx and dose
1-11months	Phenoxymethylpenicillin liquid 62.5mg QDS	Available liquid order of preference Amox > macrolide >cefalexin. Dose as per BNFC
1-4years	250mg Amoxicillin capsule TDS	250mg phenoxymethylpenicillin tablet BD
5 Years	500mg Amoxicillin Capsule TDS	250mg phenoxymethylpenicillin tablet BD
6 – 11 years	250mg phenoxymethylpenicillin tablet QDS (or 500mg BD)	500mg Amoxicillin Capsule TDS
12-17 years	500mg phenoxymethylpenicillin tablet QDS (or 1000mg BD)	500mg Amoxicillin Capsule TDS

Issuing macrolides to penicillin allergic children

(Dosing suggestions for group A strep) see guidelines and BNFC for dosing specific to indication for other indications

Local macrolide resistance 9.5%. Send throat swab when issuing macrolide.

<20KG	Give available suitable macrolide antibiotic liquid dose as per BNFC	
Child older than 2year 20-30kg	Azithromycin 250mg Capsule / Tablet OD*	If can swallow tablets Erythromycin otherwise macrolide liquid
Child older than 2year 30-40kg	Clarithromycin 250mg tablet BD	If can swallow tablets Erythromycin otherwise macrolide liquid
>40kg	Clarithromycin 500mg tablet BD	Azithromycin 500mg Capsule / Tablet OD*

Duration

- **5days** for simple sore throat (*3days if using azithromycin)
- **10days** if scarlet fever signs/suspicion (*5days if using azithromycin)

Information on giving solid dosage forms to children who cannot swallow tablets. Please assess handler allergies.

Phenoxymethylpenicillin	Tablets are small and can be placed in a small amount of food (yoghurt/jam) and swallowed. Crush and mix in food or cordial if necessary but may increase bitter taste.
Amoxicillin capsules	Open capsule and sprinkle contents into small amount of food or liquid
Azithromycin tablets	The film coated tablets can be crushed, capsules can be opened and contents emptied. Mix with a small amount of food (yoghurt/jam) or liquid e.g cordial
Clarithromycin tablets	The film coated tablets can be crushed and mixed with a small amount of food (yoghurt/jam) or liquid e.g cordial

Further details: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/using-solid-oral-dosage-form-antibiotics-in-children/>

Parent information leaflet on crushing/mixing: <https://www.wmic.wales.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PIL-using-liquid-preparations-of-solid-antibiotics-FINAL.pdf>