

## MEMO: Shortage of Generic Azithromycin 200mg/5ml Suspension

*Developed by the South East London Hospital Paediatric Pharmacy Teams*

There is currently a shortage of generic azithromycin oral suspension.

Zithromax® powder for oral suspension remains available. Prescribers please be aware that this brand must be stated on the prescription to allow community pharmacies to order and dispense it for a patient.

As an alternative the capsules or tablets may be prescribed and supplied to children until the generic liquid shortage is resolved. Please round liquid doses to a measurable whole/half/quarter dose of the tablet, see below advice on how to give a dose, further information can be found on the Specialist Pharmacy Service Website [here](#). Please note doses **should not** be prepared or administered by anyone with a macrolide allergy.

Formulation	CAPSULES (250mg)	TABLETS (250mg and 500mg)
<b>General instruction</b>	Can be opened and the contents tipped out and mixed with liquid or soft food	They are film-coated but can be crushed and mixed with liquid or soft food.
<b>How to prepare the dose</b>	Open the capsule and mix the contents in 5mL water. Calculate the appropriate amount in mLs to give the correct dose in mg, draw this up using an oral syringe.	Crush the tablet and mix the with 5mL water. Calculate the appropriate amount in mLs to give the correct dose in mg, draw this up using an oral syringe.
<b>Masking the Taste</b>	The capsule contents will taste bitter so it can be helpful to use a strongly flavoured drink (e.g. blackcurrant cordial) or food (e.g. jam, apple sauce, yoghurt) that the child likes.	The crushed tablet will taste bitter so it can be helpful to use a strongly flavoured drink (e.g. blackcurrant cordial) or food (e.g. jam, apple sauce, yoghurt) that the child likes.

For dosing details please refer to the South East London Paediatric Formulary.

Please contact the child's specialist team if required

- a) Evelina Hospital patients – email [LetsTalkMedicines@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:LetsTalkMedicines@gstt.nhs.uk) or call 0207 188 3003
- b) Kings College Hospital NHSFT patients – email [kch-tr.WomenandChildrenPharmacyTeam@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.WomenandChildrenPharmacyTeam@nhs.net) or call 0203 299 9000 ext 35723
- c) Lewisham and Greenwich NHSFT patients - email [LG.QE-MedInfo@nhs.net](mailto:LG.QE-MedInfo@nhs.net) or call 0208 836 4900