

Useful Contact Details

If you have any questions about your medication, including the purpose and potential side effects, please contact our dedicated patient helpline for advice:

- **Dedicated Patient Helpline** ☎ **01438 286150**
Monday to Friday, 2pm - 4pm
or e-mail: medinfo.enhtr@nhs.net (for a response by the next working day).

You can also contact the department you got the medication from:

- **Children's Emergency Department** ☎ **01438 284333**
- **Bluebell Ward** ☎ **01438 284008**
- **Outpatient Pharmacy** ☎ **01438 285321**

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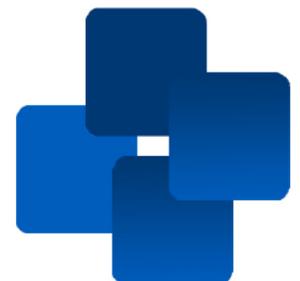
www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

You can request this
information in a different
format or another language.

Patient Information

Reconstituting (making up) antibiotic liquids at home

Pharmacy Department



Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain how to reconstitute a bottle of medicine. To reconstitute means to mix water with a powder to produce a liquid. Your child requires medicine for a short period of time and this leaflet gives instructions on how to make up the bottle of medicine you have been given.

Why have I been given medicine to make up at home?

Your child has been prescribed a course of antibiotics which need to be taken regularly for _____ days.

Pharmacy will normally make up the liquid, on receipt of the prescription, which will keep for a certain number of days provided it is stored in a cool place or a refrigerator.

Because the length of time that the medicine needs to be taken is longer than the shelf life of the prepared liquid, it is necessary for us to supply you with the dry powder and instructions on how to make up the liquid yourself. In order for your child to complete the course of treatment, you will need to reconstitute (make up) the bottle at home.

How do I make up the medicine?

If you have been given a bottle* of medicine which has been made up for you, use it first. When it finishes, or expires (whichever comes first), make up the remaining bottle following the instructions on the bottle and on this leaflet. **For courses lasting a number of weeks, only make up ONE bottle at a time in order to avoid the medicine expiring before the course is completed.**

*Older children requiring larger doses may be supplied with more than one bottle.

Instructions

1. Boil tap water and let it cool to room temperature.
2. Shake the bottle containing the medicine gently to loosen the powder.
3. Using the measuring syringe provided, draw up the volume of water required (it is _____ ml, as stated on the bottle) and squeeze it into the bottle. Replace the lid on the bottle.
4. Gently shake the bottle until all the powder has mixed in well. Check the bottom of the bottle to ensure that no powder remains.
5. This bottle of liquid will now keep for _____ days.
6. Once the bottle has been made up, it may need to be stored in the fridge or a cool place. Check the label on the bottle for the storage requirements and expiry period once reconstituted.
7. Write the date of when you made the medicine up, and its expiry date, on the label.

Complete the course of medicine as instructed.

If there is any medicine left over, discard it by taking it to your local community pharmacy.

What if I am unable to make up the medicine?

If you are unable to make up the medicine, let the nurse or doctor know. You will then have to come back to the hospital to collect the remaining medicine.