

Kent and Medway ICB Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) Oral suspension for Adults Primary Care – Position Statement

Kent and Medway ICB does **NOT** support prescribing of omeprazole or other PPI oral suspension for:

- adults with swallowing difficulty
- adults with enteral tubes.

The only exception would be for fine bore enteral tubes (6 – 12 Fr) as recommended by the HEN team, dietitian or hospital specialist.

The drug tariff price for a 20mg daily dose of Omeprazole oral suspension (licensed as Rosemont) is £418, compared with £9.86 for Mezzopram (omeprazole) dispersible tablets. (July 2023)

NEWT Guidelines provide useful advice on drug administration with swallowing difficulty and via enteral tubes. Practice and PCN pharmacy teams can access via their local ICB MO team. *Please note this position statement applies to adults (with capacity to follow administration advice for alternative formulations as per SmPC) only .*

Adult with Swallowing Difficulty:

The choice of medicine formulation should be made on an individual basis, taking account of patient factors.

The Specialist Pharmacy Service (requires a login) suggests a stepwise process for choosing a suitable formulation ([here](#)).

Omeprazole and lansoprazole capsules – some brands are licensed for the capsules to be opened. If this is appropriate for the individual, then this will be the most cost-effective option. The individual SmPC or package insert must be checked to ensure that opening the capsules is licensed and for the specific administration instructions.¹

“Mezzopram” dispersible tablets are the most cost-effective Omeprazole dispersible product suitable for adults with swallowing difficulty. Please see the manufacturer’s SmPC or package insert for administration instructions. The tablets must not be chewed or crushed.²

Lansoprazole orodispersible tablets are the most cost-effective dispersible PPI on the K&M Formulary for adults with swallowing difficulty. They are licensed for administration orally via an oral syringe in adults. Alternatively, they can be placed on the tongue and gently sucked. See manufacturer’s SmPC or package insert for administration advice.³

Adult Enteral Tube Administration

“Mezzopram” brand of omeprazole dispersible tablets are licensed for use through gastric feeding tubes. It is essential to follow the manufacturer’s instructions. See manufacturer’s SmPC or package insert for administration advice.

Lansoprazole orodispersible tablets are licensed for administration via a nasogastric tube in adults. See manufacturer’s SmPC or package insert for administration advice.³

High cost preparation - Rosemont Omeprazole Oral Suspension (currently 1mg/ml, 2mg/ml and 4mg/ml powder for oral suspension) is licensed for administration via a nasogastric or percutaneous

Approved by: IMOC

Approval date: December 2023

Review date: December 2025

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endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube (size 6 Fr to 16 Fr).⁴ This is a **high cost** preparation and there are alternative licensed PPI options available for use in adults with swallowing difficulties and enteral tubes. It is compatible for use with Polyurethane and PVC nasogastric (NG) and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes of size 6 Fr to 16 Fr⁴. It may therefore be an option for fine bore tubes if other more cost-effective options have been found to be unsuitable and recommended by the HEN team.

*Please note this product requires refrigeration after reconstitution so could be less convenient.*⁴

See manufacturer's SmPC or package insert for administration advice including compatibility with PEG and NG tubes. Please ensure that the manufacturer's administration instructions are followed.

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/>

Price comparison⁵:

Omeprazole	10mg	20mg	40mg
Omeprazole GR capsules (DT ⁵)	£1.44	£2.83	£2.92
Mezzopram x28	£6.58	£9.86	£19.72
Losec MUPS x 28 (DT ⁵)	£9.30	£13.92	£27.84
Rosemont Omeprazole oral suspension (DT ⁵)	£224	£418	£836
Lansoprazole orodispersible (DT⁵)		15mg	30mg
		£2.70	£4.93
Lansoprazole GR Capsules, hard (DT ⁵)		£0.92	£1.18

References:

1. [Home - electronic medicines compendium \(emc\)](#)
2. Mezzopram 10 mg Dispersible Gastro-resistant Tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) (medicines.org.uk)
3. Lansoprazole 15 mg orodispersible tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) (medicines.org.uk)
4. Omeprazole 2 mg/ml, Powder for Oral Suspension - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) (medicines.org.uk)
5. NHS BSA. Drug Tariff July 2023.
6. NEWT Guidelines.
7. Specialist Pharmacy Services. PPI Suggestions for Adults with Swallowing Difficulties. Accessed on line 7.6.23. [PPI suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)