

Kent and Medway ICB Omeprazole Oral suspension for Paediatrics in Primary Care – Position Statement

Omeprazole oral suspension should only be prescribed when oral dispersible tablets (Mezzopram) are not suitable such as in the following circumstances:

- Patients who have a fine bore enteral feeding tube (6-12Fr)
- Patients started on the suspension by a tertiary centre
- Infants on a low dose of omeprazole, whose dose is unable to be rounded to a suitable oral dispersible tablet dose e.g. 7mg dose.

All other paediatric prescriptions requiring dispersible formulation should be prescribed as omeprazole dispersible tablets (Mezzopram as preferred choice).

Do not switch between different liquid formulations for neonates / children initiated by secondary or tertiary care as there may be a reason for a specific unlicensed product. For example, excipients in some other products may not be suitable for neonates.

*Please note this position statement applies to **children only** (with the ability to follow administration advice for alternative formulations as per SmPC*).*

Mezzopram dispersible gastro-resistant tablets (preferred choice of dispersible tablets in Kent and Medway) are licensed for use from 1 year of age and weight of 10kg or more. Mezzopram is licensed for use via gastric tubes (refer to SPC).^{2,3}

Omeprazole dispersible tablets (Mezzopram or Losec MUPs) consist of numerous small enteric-coated pellets and will disperse in water, allowing easier administration, but the pellets sink to the bottom of the container with time. The pellets DO NOT DISSOLVE in the water. For this reason, aliquots or portions taken from a dispersed tablet solution will not provide an accurate dose for the child where the dose is smaller than a whole tablet. ***Pellets must not be chewed.**

Lansoprazole orodispersible tablets are not licensed for paediatric use.³

High cost preparation- Omeprazole Oral Suspension (currently available in licensed strengths 1mg/ml, 2mg/ml and 4mg/ml powder for oral suspension e.g. Rosemont). Licensed products for administration via a nasogastric or percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube is compatible for use with Polyurethane and PVC nasogastric (NG), percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes of size 6 Fr to 16 Fr and only for paediatric use in children over 1 month of age. *Please note this product requires refrigeration after reconstitution so could be less convenient.*¹

When continuing the prescribing of any oral liquid, it would be safer to continue with the same strength unless there is a clinical reason to change. If changing the strength is needed then patients/carers must be educated on dosing and the dosing must be checked.

The drug tariff price for a 20mg daily dose of the oral suspension is £418, compared with £9.86 for Mezzopram dispersible tablets. For this reason the oral suspension must only be used for the circumstances in the above box.

See manufacturer's SmPC or package insert for administration advice including compatibility with PEG and NG tubes.

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Note specific brands of omeprazole capsules can be opened. Please ensure that the manufacturer's administration instructions are followed. <https://www.medicines.org.uk/>.

Price comparison – Drug Tariff, July 2023 ^{5,6}:

Omeprazole	10mg	20mg	40mg
Mezzopram x28	£6.58	£9.86	£19.72
Rosemont Omeprazole oral suspension (DT ⁵)	£224	£418	£836

References:

1. Omeprazole 2 mg/ml, Powder for Oral Suspension - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) (medicines.org.uk). Accessed 19.09.23.
2. Mezzopram 10 mg Dispersible Gastro-resistant Tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) (medicines.org.uk). Accessed 19.09.23.
3. Lansoprazole 15 mg orodispersible tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc) (medicines.org.uk)
4. NHS BSA. Drug Tariff July 2023.
5. NHS BSA. Dm+d. browser. [dm+d browser \(nhsbsa.nhs.uk\)](https://dm+d.browser.nhs.uk/) . Accessed 20.09.23