

## **‘Specials’ Guidance: suggested alternatives for some commonly prescribed special order medicines** (Version 4.0 August 2019)

Prescribers should be aware when they are prescribing, or asking another professional to administer a “special” that, in general, “specials” should only be prescribed when the patient has an individual clinical need that cannot be met by a licensed medicine of established efficacy, quality and stability.

**Special order medicines included in this table are those recently prescribed in NHS Herefordshire.**

**If you require information on a medicine not included or require specialist advice for PEG fed patients, or complex patients please contact the Medicines Information team at Wye Valley NHS Trust 01432 364017 or the Regional Medicines Information team on 0121 7247298 or [wmmis@heartofengland.nhs.uk](mailto:wmmis@heartofengland.nhs.uk)**

This advisory guidance is a working document that will be regularly updated; availability and cost of preparations may change on a daily basis. **The information contained in this guidance is issued on the understanding that it is the best available from the resources at our disposal at the time of issue.** Please feedback any omissions, further information or suggestions to the Medicines Optimisation team [emma.jones5@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk](mailto:emma.jones5@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk)

If referring to a printed copy please be aware a more recent update may be available on the [Prescribing Guidelines](#) page of the CCG Website.

### **Acknowledgements:**

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## Background Information on Prescribing / Dispensing Special Order Medicines

Products which are unlicensed and are prescribed for individuals are called Specials. A pharmaceutical Special as defined by law is a medicine made to satisfy an individual patient need.

Before an unlicensed special order medicine is prescribed, the **prescriber** must:

- Establish a clinical need i.e. be satisfied that an alternative, licensed medicine is not available (consider stopping or changing drug / route of administration)
- Make a shared decision with the patient (or carer)
- Be aware of delay in obtaining 'special' (up to 7-10 days) and the likely short shelf life of product (usually 28 days, but may be as short as 7 days)
- Monitor and review on an ongoing basis
- Requests to prescribed unlicensed specials by a third party e.g. secondary care, do not diminish the responsibility of the prescriber.

The following principles of risk assessment should be used in the decision making process for prescribing or dispensing unlicensed Specials. The option chosen should reduce the risk of harm to the patient whilst maximising the efficacy of the treatment.

Level of risk	Classification of medicine
Low	EMEA/MHRA licensed product
Medium	EMEA/MHRA licensed imported product
Medium	Licensed imported product from a mutually recognised origin
High	Special medicine from a licensed facility
Unacceptable (except with shared care after hospital risk assessment)	Unlicensed imported product Non medicine import

**Pharmacists have a professional obligation to notify prescribers if a licensed alternative exists.**

### Additional Information:

- Tablet crushers and splitters are available from pharmacies
- Modified release preparations should never be crushed
- Special liquids may be required in paediatrics when the dose is impossible to give by dividing tablets
- Review the need for an unlicensed Special regularly

NB: If a medicine or form of a medicine is not listed in the British National Formulary then it is likely to be unlicensed. The BNF lists some unlicensed products or uses of medicines but does not clearly identify them as such

### How do I know if I have inadvertently selected a special formulation on my practice system?

**EMIS WEB** – letter U on formulary list plus warning message re unlicensed status on initiation. Once added to patient's medication list there is nothing saying it is unlicensed

### References / Further information

Medicines Information local 01432 364017 (Wye Valley NHS Trust Medicines Information), regional 0121 424 9299 (Regional Primary Care Medicines Information support West Midlands)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society guidelines: <http://www.rpharms.com/unsecure-support-resources/specials-resources.asp>

GMC guidance on prescribing unlicensed medicines [http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical\\_guidance/14327.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/14327.asp)

**please contact the Medicines Information team at Wye Valley NHS Trust 01432 364017 or the Regional Medicines Information team on 0121 7247298 or [wmmis@heartofengland.nhs.uk](mailto:wmmis@heartofengland.nhs.uk)**

British Association of Dermatology (BAD) <http://www.bad.org.uk> for information on approved topical preparations

The NEWT Guidelines 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Feb 2015 NHS Wales. Pharmacy Dept, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Wrexham LL13 7TD (01978 725178). ISBN 978-0-9552515-1-1. NEWT online <http://www.newtguidelines.com> (requires subscription)

**A general guide to administering drugs via enteral feeding tubes is given below:**

1. Stop the feed; allow a break before administering medicine if appropriate.
2. Flush the tube with at least 30ml of water
3. Assemble medication and equipment needed.
4. Prepare each drug separately.
5. Administer medication as appropriate
6. Rinse tablet crusher/containers, and/or draw up water into the syringe used and flush this down tube. This ensures that the whole dose is given.
7. If more than one medicine is administered – flush between drugs with at least 10ml of water to ensure the drug is cleared from the tube.  
If one of the medicines is a syrup it is preferable to administer the syrup last.
8. Flush tube with at least 30ml of water following administration of last drug.
9. Re-start feed, allowing for a break if appropriate.

**NOTES:**

- Crushing tablets/administering medications via an enteral feeding tube is off-license use.
- The dietitian should have discussed the off-license administration of the listed medications with the patient/carer and consent obtained.
- Sorbitol containing liquids should be diluted before administration.
- Always use an 'oral' syringe for administering medicines via the enteral feeding tube.  
(Do not measure liquid medicines using a catheter – tipped syringe, as this results in excessive dosing owing to the volume of the tip).

# Prescribing medicines for adults who are unable to swallow oral solid dosage forms

## STEP 1: Clinical Evaluation

- Consider a swallowing screening assessment by an appropriately trained healthcare professional, prior to making a referral to the Speech and Language Therapy

NB SALT referral not always required in Herefordshire

## STEP 2: Medication Review

- Check that each medicine is still required

## STEP 3: Use a licensed medicine in a suitable formulation

- Consider changing drug or formulation if necessary taking into consideration possible differences in bioavailability and ingredients.

## STEP 4: Use a licensed medicine in an unlicensed manner

- Before prescribing a licensed medicine to be used in an unlicensed manner by manipulation, be satisfied that such use would better serve the patient's needs than an appropriately licensed alternative that does not require manipulation.
- Care staff may only administer licensed medicines in an unlicensed manner on the instruction of the prescriber. A written direction must be documented in the patient's care plan.

### Consent

As with any intervention the patient must give informed consent. Where necessary it is important that the patients / carers are involved in this process and where doses are manipulated ensure that they are happy to and able to administer the medicine in this way

## STEP 5: Use an unlicensed 'special'.

- Special-order ('special') liquid medicines are unlicensed and can be expensive. They should only be used if there is no licensed medicine that meets the patient's needs.
- If possible specify a batch produced formulation from a licensed specials manufacturer

Copied from NHS Wales publication

Medicine	Suggested Alternative (1), (2), (3) See p15 for Key
Acarbose	No licensed liquid formulation available. Tablets can be chewed with the first mouthful of food or swallowed whole with a little liquid immediately before food.
Acebutolol	No licensed liquid formulation available. Consider alternative licensed beta-blocker preparation: Atenolol/Propranolol Or Prescribe licensed Acebutolol capsules which can be opened and the contents dispersed in water before taking.
Acenocoumarol	Tablets will disperse in water. Prescribe Acenocoumarol tablets and label “disperse in water immediately before taking”
Acetazolamide oral suspension 250mg/5ml	Standard release tablets disperse in water in 1-5 minutes. Rinse equipment well to ensure whole dose is given.
Acetylcysteine Tablet 600mg / capsule 600mg Effervescent tab 600mg	Prescribe as Oronac 600mg capsules (food supplement). <b>Effervescent tablets prescribe generically</b> Special only, shared care in place: <a href="http://nww.herefordshire.nhs.uk/Portals/0/Meds_Man/Shared_Care/Acetylcysteine_in_Pulmonary_Fibrosis.pdf">http://nww.herefordshire.nhs.uk/Portals/0/Meds_Man/Shared_Care/Acetylcysteine_in_Pulmonary_Fibrosis.pdf</a>
Acetylcysteine 10% eye drops	Available from Martindale as 10ml bottles, with or without preservative.
Alfentanil HCl Pump Spray 1mg/ml 5ml	Special only and non-formulary. Available from South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust if required. Use licensed preparation of short-acting fentanyl eg Abstral sublingual tablets (formulary product)
Allopurinol Liq Spec 100mg/5ml	100mg tablets will disperse in water in around 1 minute without crushing but 300mg tablets need to be crushed well before dispersing in water, resultant liquid must be given immediately (1).  Last resort – use unlicensed special listed in the drug tariff. Prescribe allopurinol 100mg in 5ml or 300mg in 5ml oral suspension.
Alphatocopheryl Chewable tablets 100mg	Use licensed Vitamin E suspension 500mg/5ml
Amiloride HCl Liq Spec 5mg/5ml	Licensed oral solution S/F 5mg/5ml (Amilamont) available from Rosemont if required. Tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water before administration although different brands disperse at markedly different rates (1)
Amiodarone solution/suspension	The tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration (unlicensed). Different brands may disperse at notably different rates. Give immediately.  Crushed tablets have a bitter taste – can be mixed with fruit juice or jam if desired. Food can increase the rate and extent of amiodarone absorption; it is recommended to administer consistently in relation to meals. There have been

Medicine	Suggested Alternative (1), (2), (3) See p15 for Key
	reports of reduced serum amiodarone levels when the drug is given by nasogastric tube – patient's receiving amiodarone via enteral feeding tube should be monitored closely.
Amitriptyline Liq Spec 10mg/5ml	Use licensed amitriptyline 25mg/5ml and give 2ml via oral syringe for 10mg dose.
Amlodipine Liq Spec 10mg/5ml	Amlodipine 1mg/ml and 2mg/ml available as licensed oral solutions (Rosemont). Both 'store in refrigerator (2-8°C)'. Once opened, use within 30 days.  Tablets disperse in water in 1– 5 minutes but light sensitive and so should be given immediately (1) Crushed tablets can also be mixed with a small amount of food such as yogurt or mashed potato.
Anastrozole	No licensed liquid formulation.  Prescribe Anastrozole tablets and label "disperse tablet in water and take"  Tablets are slow to disperse and may take in excess of 5 minutes.
Apixaban	Apixaban (Eliquis) tablets may be crushed and suspended in water or apple juice or mixed with apple puree and immediately administered orally.
Atorvastatin oral suspension	Consider age of patient and if still clinically appropriate.  Prescribe licensed chewable tablets (available as 10mg and 20mg) where appropriate Or Prescribe atorvastatin tablets and label " crush tablet and mix with water and take"
Azathioprine	Cytotoxic Drug: Should not be crushed/dissolved  Consider using an unlicensed special listed in the drug tariff. Prescribe azathioprine 20mg in 5ml, 25mg in 5ml, 50mg in 5ml, or 100mg in 5ml oral suspension.
Bendroflumethiazide Liq Spec 2.5mg/5ml	2.5mg tablets will disperse readily in water in 1-5 minutes (1).  Last resort – use unlicensed special listed in the drug tariff. Prescribe Bendroflumethiazide 2.5mg in 5ml oral suspension
Betahistine	Prescribe betahistine tablets and label "crush or disperse in water and take"
Bisoprolol Fumar Liq Spec 1.25mg/5ml 2.5mg/5ml	Consider change to Atenolol 25mg/5ml syrup S/F. Prescribe Bisoprolol tablets and label "crush tablet finely then mix with water and take " Or Last resort use unlicensed special

Medicine	Suggested Alternative (1), (2), (3) See p15 for Key
	Prescribe 1.25mg in 5ml, 2.5mg in 5ml or 5mg in 5ml <b>oral solution</b>
Calcium Carbonate Liq Spec 500mg/5ml	Consider licensed products e.g. Calcium-Sandoz® syrup [calcium 108.3mg (2.7mmol) per 5ml] or Cacit® 1.25g effervescent tablets [500mg (12.6mmol) calcium per tablet]
Captopril Liq Spec (various strengths) 5mg/5ml, 25mg/5ml	Licensed oral solution Noyada 5mg/5ml and 25mg/5ml (Martindale Pharma) available. Once open use within 21 days. Or Tablets disperse in water in 1-5 minutes (unlicensed) If giving via enteral feeding tube, flush well after each dose as fine powder sediment may be left. Give on an empty stomach. Withhold enteral feeds for at least half an hour before and after each dose.
Carbamazepine	Licensed liquid formulation is Carbamazepine 100mg/5mL SF liquid (Tegretol®) Or Prescribe licensed carbamazepine 125mg or 250mg Suppositories (Tegretol®)  <u>Feeding tubes:</u> - Dilute liquid to reduce adherence to feeding tube. - Stop feed one hour before and one to two hours after dose <b>Take care when switching from tablet to liquid formulations. See <a href="#">separate document</a></b>
Carvedilol	Consider alternative licensed beta blocker preparation: atenolol/propranolol Or prescribe Carvedilol Tablets and label “crush tablet and mix with water and take”
Chloral Hydrate Liq Spec various	Review ongoing clinical need and choice of hypnotic with specialist – non-formulary for hypnotic use. Licensed solution 143.3mg/5ml is considerably higher cost than unlicensed 500mg/5ml solution.
Chlorothiazide Liq Spec 200mg/5ml	Consider alternative diuretics with licensed liquid forms e.g. furosemide. Bendroflumethiazide disperses readily in water. Special only liquid 250mg/5ml available from Martindale if required
Citalopram	Licensed liquid formulation is Citalopram 40mg/ml oral drops sugar free N.B Four drops (8mg) is equivalent in therapeutic effect is 10mg citalopram tablets. <b>Take care when switching from tablet to liquid formulations. See <a href="#">separate document</a></b>
Clindamycin HCl Liq Spec 75mg/5ml	Contents of capsule may be dispersed in water but has offensive taste and smell. Should be mixed with strong tasting diluent such as cherry or blackcurrant, grape juice or maple syrup (unlicensed)
Clobazam Liq Spec 10mg/5ml	10mg tablets disperse in water in 1 to 5 minutes (1) Licensed suspensions available: Tapclob 5mg/5ml oral suspension (Martindale) and Perizam 1mg/ml oral suspension (Rosemont)
Clonazepam Liq Spec 500mcg/5ml	Licensed suspensions available: 0.5mg/5ml and 2mg/5ml (Rosemont)

	<p>Tablets disperse in water in 1-5 minutes but taste unpleasant. For NG or PEG tubes, use at least 30ml to prevent binding to tube (1)</p> <p>The MHRA has issued guidance that (where possible) patients on clonazepam (when used for seizures) are maintained on a specific manufacturer's product, due to variability in product characteristics which may lead to a loss of seizure control when switching between brands/manufacturers. When managing patients with enteral tubes or swallowing difficulties it may not be possible to maintain the patient on their previous preparation due to the need to change to an appropriate formulation. However, all product switches should be maintained from then onwards on a single manufacturer's product.</p>
Clonazepam	<p>Most brands of tablets disperse in water within 1 to 5 minutes but some take longer so crushing first is advised.</p> <p>Last resort – use Oral solution (special) 75mg/5ml available (Rosemont)</p>
Codeine Phos Oral Soln 25mg/5ml	Use licensed product 15mg/5ml
Colecalciferol	<p>HCCG Vitamin D guidelines: <a href="http://www.herefordshireccg.nhs.uk/nutrition">http://www.herefordshireccg.nhs.uk/nutrition</a></p> <p><b>Prophylactic Vitamin D supplements are considered to be selfcare treatments and are not for FP10 prescribing</b></p> <p>For treatment/replacement doses use Stexerol D3 25,000 unit tabs, Invita D3 50,000 unit oral solution 1ml “ampoule” or Sunvit 10,000 unit tablets as appropriate.</p>
Dabigatran	<p>Important – Dabigatran capsules <b>must not be opened</b> as bioavailability and therefore anticoagulant effect is increased when taken without the capsule shell.</p> <p>Consider Rivaroxaban or Apixaban - see separate entries</p>
Desmopressin Acet_Liq Spec 200mcg/5ml	<p>Sublingual tablets (Desmomelts) should be used where patient has sufficiently moist mouth.</p> <p>Licensed product available 360micrograms/ml oral solution (Consilient Health) expires 4 weeks after first opening. For patients with swallowing difficulties/enteral tubes, consider a switch to nasal route. Standard tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration.</p>
Diazepam Oral Soln 2mg/5ml / 10mg/5ml	Licensed <b>sugar-free</b> oral solution available 2mg/5ml. Contains sorbitol which may cause diarrhoea.
Digoxin	<p>Prescribe licensed Digoxin 50micrograms/mL Elixir (Lanoxin-PG)</p> <p><b>Bioavailability is different between tablets and liquids. Take care when switching from tablet to liquid formulations. See <a href="#">separate document</a></b></p>

Diltiazem Cream 2%	<p>For Anal Fissures</p> <p>As 2<sup>nd</sup> line treatment when GTN oint (Rectogesic® 0.4%) has failed. Prescribe as Anoheal® cream. Suggested source SLA Pharma AG, Elite House, Hill Farm Industrial Estate, Leavesden, Watford, WD25 7SA. Tel: 01923 681 001 Fax: 01923 681 221.) – Neozem (unlicensed product) is listed on WVT formulary, indicated for anal fissures (store in refrigerator). Diltiazem ointment 2% is less expensive than cream.</p>
Diltiazem HCl Liq Spec 60mg/5ml	<p>60mg generic preparation is not slow release and can be crushed for administration via enteral tubes (1) Contents of capsules should not be crushed but may be mixed with soft food for administration (unlicensed). Patients on once or twice-daily modified release preparations may need to be converted onto three times daily doses of the 60mg generic preparation.</p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p>Consider alternative licensed calcium channel blocker – see Verapamil.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Last resort – use unlicensed special listed in drug tariff Diltiazem liquid 60mg in 5ml oral suspension.</p>
Dipyridamole Liq Spec 100mg/5ml	<p><b>Clopidogrel is now preferred over dipyridamole as more clinically and cost effective.</b></p> <p><b>DO NOT PRESCRIBE!</b> Herefordshire NHS policy states that if patient cannot swallow capsules, treatment should be stopped and notes annotated (use dispersible aspirin or clopidogrel as appropriate)</p>
Donepezil	<p>Prescribe licensed Donepezil orodispersible tablets sugar free (5mg or 10mg)</p> <p>or</p> <p>Prescribe Donepezil 1mg in 1ml oral solution sugar free (much more expensive than orodispersible tablets).</p>
Dosulepin HCl Liq Spec 25mg/5ml	<p>Consider alternatives - dosulepin use not recommended (NICE) – see <a href="#">local guidance</a>.</p> <p>Other tricyclics e.g. amitriptyline, lofepramine are available as licensed liquid preparations. The tablets have been crushed and the capsules opened but this is not recommended</p> <p>Special oral solution 25mg/5ml and 75mg/5ml available if required (contains sorbitol)</p>
Doxazosin Liq Spec 1mg/5ml	<p>Consider ongoing clinical need. Tablets may be crushed (1) <i>NB do not crush modified release tablets</i></p> <p>Standard tablets disperse readily in DEIONISED water (e.g. water for injections, water for irrigation) within 1 minute DO NOT use tap water ( Tap water contains excessive chloride ions leading to precipitation). The bioavailability of the MR tablets is only 54-59% of the standard tablets therefore a dose adjustment and blood pressure monitoring may be necessary when switching between the two. It may be advisable, when moving from modified-release to standard-release tablets, to halve the total daily dose and then titrate upwards as required.</p>
Enalapril oral solution 5mg/5ml	<p>Consider switch to licensed Ramipril oral solution SF 2.5mg/5ml. Alternatively enalapril tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water. Crushed tablets may have a bitter aftertaste. Without crushing some tablets will disperse in about 5 minutes (unlicensed)</p>
Entacapone	<p>No licensed liquid formulation available.</p> <p>Prescribe Entacapone tablets and label “disperse tablet in water and take”</p> <p>NB: Will only partially disperse in water, can be added to jam, honey or orange juice.</p> <p>May stain orange.</p>

Eprosartan	No licensed liquid formulation available. Consider switch to licensed ramipril 2.5mg/5ml oral solution
Ergocalciferol products	Check if consultant will consider licensed alternative form of Vit D, see BNF for alternatives, e.g. alfacalcidol as One-Alpha drops. See <a href="#">vitamin D guidance</a> for licensed colecalciferol alternatives
Ethambutol Liq spec	Tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration (1). Genus brand tablets contain sucrose and sorbitol.
Famciclovir	Consider a switch to acyclovir as licensed Aciclovir Dispersible Tablets. Or Licensed Aciclovir Suspension 200mg/5ml / 400mg/5ml
Ferrous sulphate 60mg/5ml Liq Special	Use licensed product such as Sytron® (Sodium Feredetate;) 25.5mg iron/5ml (contains sorbitol 40% w/v; sugar free) or ferrous fumarate 140mg/5ml syrup (45mg iron/5ml)
Finasteride	Place whole tablet in water, disperses within 5 minutes – <b>DO NOT</b> crush NB: Women should not handle crushed or broken finasteride if they are or may be pregnant. Protective gloves should be worn when handling.
Flecainide	No licensed liquid formulation available. Prescribe flecainide tablets and label “crush tablet, disperse in water immediately prior to administration”. Crushed tablets have a local anaesthetic effect, so should be used with care in patients with swallowing difficulties.
Fludrocortisone	No licensed liquid formulation is available. Prescribe Fludrocortisone tablets and label “ dissolve in water and take” Crushed tablets can also be mixed in a small amount of soft food such as yogurt or jam.
Fluoxetine 10mg tablets	Prescribe licensed Fluoxetine 20mg/5ml liquid; 10mg capsules now available but considerably higher cost.
Formaldehyde_Soln 3%	Special order item. Consider whether Glutarol paint 10% could be used.
Furosemide Liq Spec <b>5mg/5ml</b>	Licensed oral solution available from Rosemont in different strengths (Frusol®) 20mg/5ml; 40mg/5ml; 50mg/5ml. Use oral syringe for small doses
Gabapentin Liq Spec	Licensed oral solution S/F 50mg/ml (250mg/5ml) available from Rosemont if required. <b>Warning:</b> excipients of the Rosemont formulation include propylene glycol acesulfane and saccharin sodium and may exceed WHO limits when large doses are required. Also contains parahydrobenzoates (may cause allergic reactions) and potassium 3.8mg per 1ml dose. This should be taken into consideration for patients with reduced kidney function or patients on controlled potassium diets and sodium – 0.72mg per 1 ml dose.

	<p>Capsule contents can be emptied and added to soft food or given in fruit juice to mask unpleasant taste (unlicensed). These should be given immediately as the drug is rapidly hydrolysed (2)</p>
Gliclazide Liq Spec 40mg/5ml; 80mg/5ml	<p>Crush standard formulation well and mix with orange juice or water. Do not crush MR formulation but convert dose to standard and treat as above (30mg MR = 80mg standard).</p> <p>N.B. Can take five minutes for tablet to completely disperse.</p> <p>May leave a residue however this is unlikely to be active drug as gliclazide is soluble in water.</p> <p>Unlicensed special only liquid available from Martindale if required 40mg/5ml, 80mg/5ml (1 month expiry)</p>
Glyceryl Trinitrate_Oint 0.2%	Use licensed product Rectogesic® 0.4%
Glycopyrronium	<p>Licensed glycopyrronium 1mg tablets and 2mg tablets are available but very high cost.</p> <p>Licensed liquid formulation: Sialanar® glycopyrronium bromide 400 micrograms/ml oral solution sugar free. Each ml contains 320 micrograms of glycopyrronium.</p> <p>Colonis® glycopyrronium bromide 1mg/5ml sugar free oral solution (limited indications – license is an add on for peptic ulcer)</p> <p>Drug Tariff Part VIIB lists unlicensed liquid formulations with NHS prices that may be more cost effective when higher doses are required.</p> <p>Consider hyoscine hydrobromide as an alternative</p>
Haloperidol	<p>Prescribe licensed</p> <p>Haloperidol 10mg in 5ml oral solution sugar free</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Haloperidol 5mg in 5ml oral solution sugar free</p>
Hydralazine Liq Spec 10mg/5ml	<p>Consider change in treatment.</p> <p>The injection can be made up with water for injections and administered orally or via enteral feeding tubes (unlicensed) (3). Enteral hydralazine should be taken at a consistent time each day with respect to meals. If the observed effect is not as great as expected, consider withholding the feed for two hours before and one hour after each dose. Tablets can be crushed but are sugar coated and are likely to block enteral feeding tubes (1). Crushing tablets may affect the absorption rate (usually increased) – monitor blood pressure.</p>
Hydrocortisone Liq Spec 5mg/5ml Hydrocortisone MR 5mg tablets	<p>Unlicensed specials only. 10mg tablets can be dispersed in water (usually within 1 minute) for administration orally or via feeding tube (1). When switching from modified release to immediate release preparations, use the same total daily dose, divided and given more frequently. Monitor clinical response.</p> <p>Special only suspension 5mg/5ml and 10mg/5ml available if required</p>
Hydroxyurea	<p>Cytotoxic drug: should not be crushed/dissolved in primary care</p> <p>Unlicensed special listed in the drug tariff is Hydroxycarbamide 500mg in 5ml oral suspension</p>

(Hydroxycarbamide)	
Hyoscine Butylbromide	<p>Low systemic absorption – predominately has local effects on the gut If an enteral feeding tube is in place, the contents of the injection can be given via enteral tube. Do not give crushed tablets via this route as it could block the tube.</p> <p>Crushed Buscopan® tablets are soluble in water</p>
Hyoscine Hydrobromide	Consider other licensed preps eg 150mcg chewable tablets (Joy -Rides®; Kwells®), 300mcg tablets (Kwells® can be sucked or chewed - absorbed via buccal mucosa) or Scopoderm 1mg/72hr patches.
Hypromellose Eye Dps 0.3% P/F	Prescribe as licensed Evolve Hypromellose PF 10ml
Indapamide	Conventional release indapamide tablets (not MR) can be dispersed in water immediately prior to administration.
Isoniazid Liq Spec 50mg/5ml	<p>Tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water (1) UCS brand tablets disperse when shaken in 10ml of water (unlicensed). Hold enteral feeds for half an hour before and half an hour after each enteral dose.</p> <p>Special only oral solution 50mg/5ml available from Rosemont if required</p>
Ketamine Liq Spec 50mg/5ml	Special only, prescribe as <b>suspension</b> (not solution); shared care in place <a href="http://nww.herefordshire.nhs.uk/MedicinesManagement/SharedCare/tabid/2711/Default.aspx">http://nww.herefordshire.nhs.uk/MedicinesManagement/SharedCare/tabid/2711/Default.aspx</a>
Lansoprazole Liq Spec 30mg/5ml	Use licensed alternative e.g. lansoprazole dispersible tablets. Zoton Fastabs® licensed for administration via nasogastric tubes and are less likely to block enteral feeding tubes
Levomepromazine	<p>For the 6mg Palliative care dose the Nozinan® 25mg tablets are quarter scored and can be split to give 6.25mg dose</p> <p>For patients unable to swallow tablets taking higher doses: Prescribe Levomepromazine Maleate Tablets and label 'disperse tablet in water and take' Or Injection may be taken orally if necessary. Prescribe Levomepromazine HCL 25mg/mL injection (1mL ampoule) and label according to dose calculated.</p>
Levothyroxine Sod Liq Spec	<p>Licensed oral solution SF now available 25, 50 &amp; 100mcg/5ml</p> <p>Tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water (1) – unlicensed</p> <p>Care should be taken to avoid third party contact. Avoid inhalation of crushed tablets.</p>
Liothyronine tablets 5mcg	LPT, see HCCG position statement Jan 17 <a href="http://www.herefordshireccg.nhs.uk/low-priority-medicines">http://www.herefordshireccg.nhs.uk/low-priority-medicines</a>
Lisinopril Liq Spec	<p>Consider switch to licensed Ramipril oral solution SF 2.5mg/5ml. Alternatively Lisinopril tablets will disperse in water in 1-2 minutes (1).</p> <p>Special only liquid 20mg/5ml available if required. Prescribe as oral <b>suspension</b> (not solution). Absorption may differ from tablets, monitor blood pressure and titrate dose as needed.</p>

Lithium	<p><b>Do not crush or dissolve tablets</b></p> <p><b>Licensed liquid formulations are:</b></p> <p>Lithium Citrate Oral Solution 509mg/5mL (Li+5.4mmol/5mL)  Or 1.018g/5mL (Li+10.8mmol/5mL) (Li-Liquid®)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Lithium Citrate 520mg/5mL (Li+5.4mmol/5mL) Liquid (Priadel®)</p> <p><b>NB Preparations vary widely is bioavailability, changing the preparation requires the same precautions as initiation of treatment. See <a href="#">separate document</a> for further information.</b></p> <p><b>NB Prescribe by brand name</b></p>
Lorazepam Liq Spec 500mcg/5ml / 1mg/5ml	<p>Tablets can be dispersed in water or crushed and mixed with water for administration orally or via feeding tube (1)</p> <p>Tablets can be administered sublingually if the patient has a sufficiently moist mouth.</p> <p>Special oral solutions available if required, prescribe as lorazepam <b>solution</b> not suspension.</p>
Magnesium Glycerophosphate Tab & chewable tabs 97.2mg	<p>Licensed as a food for special medical purposes in children over 2 years. Magnaspartate 243 mg powder for oral solution. Each 6.5g sachet contains magnesium aspartate dihydrate equivalent to 243 mg (10 mmol) of magnesium. Each sachet contains 2.706g sucrose.</p> <p>Magnaspartate can be dissolved in 50-200mL water, tea or orange juice. Stir until the solution in water is cloudy to transparent. In orange juice or tea inactive particles will be visible. The solution should be taken immediately after being prepared. For oral supplementation in hypomagnesia (licensed): Magnaspartate in 200ml water can be administered via a gastric, duodenal and nasal feeding tube. This should be administered immediately after preparation. NB: Contraindicated in severe renal impairment (eGFR &lt; 30 ml/min) and disorders of cardiac conduction (bradycardia).</p>
Magnesium Oxide Cap 160mg	<p>As for Mg glycerophosphate: Magnaspartate sachet 10mmol/sachet or Magnaphate 4mmol/tab are options.</p> <p>Recommended daily dose 24mmol in 3-4 divided doses. Mag Ox caps provide 4mmol each.</p>
Melatonin Liq Spec various	<p>Use licensed modified release preparation where possible (Circadin® MR tabs 2mg) - MHRA recommend use of this product for both licensed and unlicensed indications. Liquid special 5mg/5ml solution (KidNaps) available from OPS if clinically necessary.</p>
Melatonin Cap 2mg; 3mg; 5mg;10mg	<p>Use licensed modified release preparation where possible (Circadin® MR tabs 2mg)</p> <p><a href="#">Shared care</a> in place</p> <p>See Herefordshire CCG <a href="#">Melatonin guidance</a></p>
Meloxicam	<p>No licensed liquid formulation available.</p> <p>Consider</p> <p>Licensed meloxicam 15mg orodispersible tablets sugar free</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Licensed meloxicam 7.5mg suppositories</p>

Menadiol Sodium Phosphate	Tablets (only available as 10mg) can be crushed and mixed with water (1) or mixed with food for patients with swallowing difficulties.  Konaktion® MM Paediatric may be administered by mouth (oral use of intravenous preparation is unlicensed).
Mepacrine HCl Tab 100mg	Special only. Available through OPS
Mercaptopurine Cap 10mg (50mg tablets are licensed)	Not suitable for prescribing in primary care - refer back to specialist (unless shared care provided)
Metformin HCl Oral Solution various	Licensed 500mg/5ml, 850mg/5ml and 1g/5ml S/F solutions available
Methotrexate	Cytotoxic drug: tablets should not be crushed/dissolved in primary care. Licensed liquid formulation is Methotrexate 2mg/mL oral solution sugar free Methotrexate Injection Not suitable for prescribing in primary care, refer back to specialist (home delivery via homecare)
Methenamine	Methenamine Hippurate (Hiprex®) tablets can be halved or crushed and taken with a drink of milk or fruit juice.
Methylprednisolone	Consider licensed Dexamethasone sugar free solution 2mg in 5mL Or Prescribe methylprednisolone tablets and label 'disperse tablet in water and take'
Metoprolol Tartrate Liq Spec 12.5mg/5ml	Special only, review requirement regularly and consider alternative licensed liquid beta blocker e.g. propranolol or atenolol. The tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration (unlicensed). They disperse very slowly. Drug Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes suggests this should be considered as a last resort due to effect on dosing accuracy. Do not crush/disperse modified release tablets. Special only liquid 12.5mg/5ml available from Martindale if required (1 month expiry)
Methylphenidate	Immediate release formulations Medikinet® and Ritalin® can be crushed and mixed with a small amount of soft food such as yogurt, honey or jam and then swallowed straight away without chewing.  <b>Methylphenidate XL (modified release) tablets should not be crushed.</b>  <b>Methylphenidate XL (modified release) capsules</b> can be opened and the contents mixed with a small amount of soft food such as yogurt, honey or jam. Advise to swallow straight away without chewing.
Midazolam Liq Spec Oromucosal 10mg/ml	Prescribe as licensed Buccolam® pre-filled syringes 5mg/ml in four strengths 10mg, 7.5mg, 5mg, 2.5mg. NB note different volume ie 10mg/2ml. Buccolam is the formulary choice across Herefordshire.
Midodrine HCl Tab 5mg	Licensed product now available - Bramox tablets in 2.5mg and 5mg strength. For enteral tubes and swallowing difficulties, tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration (unlicensed).

Morphine Sulphate (Controlled Drug)	<p>Prescribe licensed morphine sulphate oral solution.</p> <p><b>Modified release formulations:</b> For patients who are unable to swallow capsules or tablets consider either:</p> <p>Zomorph® Capsules -these can be opened and sprinkled on semi-solid food (e.g.yogurt) or given in water via NG tube (do not crush contents)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Prescribe licensed Morphine Sulphate Suspension (=sachets of granules to mix with water) (MST Continus® suspension)</p>
Moxonidine	Prescribe Moxonidine tablets and label 'crush tablet finely, disperse in water and take'
Nadolol Liq Spec 40mg/5ml	Consider change to licensed product such as atenolol 25mg/5ml syrup S/F. Tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water for administration (unlicensed). Licensed Corgard 80mg tablets do not disperse readily but disperse when shaken in 10ml water for 5 minutes. Special only liquid 30mg/5ml available from Martindale if required (1 month expiry)
Naltrexone HCl Cap 4.5mg, 3mg capsules	Not suitable for prescribing in primary care - refer back to specialist
Nicorandil	Prescribe Nicorandil Tablets and label 'crush tablet, mix with water to form a suspension and take immediately' Tablets may take 5 minutes to disperse.
Nitrofurantoin Liq Spec 25mg/5ml	Prescribe as Nitrofurantoin <b>oral suspension sugar free</b> 25mg/5ml (licensed product) but considerably more expensive than tablets. Tablets may be crushed for oral administration (1).
Olanzapine Liq Spec 2.5mg/5ml	Use licensed orodispersible tablets available in different strengths. Do not prescribe as 'lyophilisates' or Velotabs®; avoid sugar-free unless essential as these cost more.
Omeprazole	<p>Use Omeprazole MUPS® for swallowing difficulties – can be dispersed in water and then mixed with orange / apple / pineapple juice, apple sauce or yoghurt. <b>DO NOT USE</b> milk or carbonated water. Enteric coated pellets must not be chewed.</p> <p>Lansoprazole FasTabs can be mixed with water and administered via NG tubes (licensed). PEG administration is an unlicensed use.</p>
Ondansetron	Use licensed Zofran® sugar free oral solution (strawberry flavoured) 4mg/5ml (50ml bottle) or Zofran Melts®
Oxybutynin	<p>Tablets are very small – check if child can swallow before prescribing expensive liquid.</p> <p><b>If oxybutynin tablets cannot be swallowed then licensed solifenacin liquid (for 2-18 yr olds) is more cost effective than licensed oxybutynin liquid.</b></p> <p>For adults Oxybutynin patches (Kentera®) are a more cost effective option than oxybutynin liquid.</p>
Pantoprazole	Not suitable for crushing – see Lansoprazole or Omeprazole

Perindopril	Perindopril erbumine tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration (unlicensed). For enteral feeding: Perindopril erbumine should be taken before food, so withhold enteral feeds for 2 hours before and after administration. If not appropriate, consider a change to licensed ramipril oral solution
Phenobarbital	Licensed 15mg/5ml elixir available (38% alcohol); tablets may be crushed (unlicensed). The MHRA has issued guidance recommending that patients on phenobarbital (when used for seizures) are maintained on a specific manufacturer's product, due to variability in product characteristics which may lead to a loss of seizure control when switching between brands / manufacturers. Alcohol free formulations are available from specials manufacturers on request. When managing patients with enteral tubes or swallowing difficulties it may not be possible to maintain the patient on their previous preparation due to the need to change to an appropriate formulation. However, all product switches should be carried out with care and close monitoring, and where possible patients should be maintained from then onwards on a single manufacturer's product.
Phenytoin	Prescribed licensed Phenytoin 30mg/5mL Suspension (Epanutin®)  NB: Bioavailability is different between forms 100mg capsules = 92mg (15mL) syrup  <b>Take care when switching from tablet to liquid formulation. <a href="#">See separate document</a></b>
Pilocarpine	Prescribe as licensed Minims Pilocarpine 20x0.5mL (2%) 0.1% (normally used for diagnosis only), 0.25%, 0.5% are unlikely to be on benefit, query strength. 6% and 8% are very high strengths – check with prescriber
Pramipexole	Prescribe Pramipexole Tablets and label 'crush tablet, mix with water or mix with soft food and take' Light sensitive so use immediately. Modified release tablets should not be chewed, divided or crushed/
Prazosin	Prescribe Prazosin tablets and label 'crush tablet, mix with water and take'
Prednisolone Sodium Phosphate Eye Drops	<b>Licensed options:</b>  <b>0.5%</b> Predsol 0.5% or licensed Minims® Prednisolone Sodium Phosphate 0.5% w.v  <b>1%</b> Prednisolone sodium phosphate 1% is not equivalent in potency to prednisolone acetate 1% w/v (Predforte®), ascertain prescriber is aware  Consider preservative free dexamethasone drops for patients who require <b>preservative free formulations</b>  Unlicensed specials listed at set price in the Drug Tariff in 10mL bottles in the following strengths: 0.03%, 0.05%, 0.1% 0.3% and 1%

Primidone	<p>No licensed liquid formulation available. Prescribe Primidone Tablets and label 'crush tablet, mix with water and take'</p> <p>The MHRA has issued guidance recommending that patients on primidone (when used for seizures) are maintained on a specific manufacturer's product, due to variability in product characteristics which may lead to a loss of seizure control when switching between brands / manufacturers.</p> <p>When managing patients with enteral tubes or swallowing difficulties it may not be possible to maintain the patient on their previous preparation due to the need to change to an appropriate formulation. However all product switches should be carried out with care and close monitoring, and where possible patients should be maintained from then onwards on a single manufacturer's product. Flush PEG tube well as drug poorly soluble (1).</p> <p>Special only suspension 50mg/5ml available if required. (DO NOT USE the 250mg/5ml as 10x more expensive).</p>
Pyridostigmine	<p>Tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration. If patient has PEG, flush tube well after administration (1)</p>
Pyridoxine	<p>Tablets can be crushed and mixed with water to make a dispersion but slow to disperse and forms a coarse suspension.</p> <p>No licensed liquid available</p> <p>If prescribing an unlicensed special prescribe as pyridoxine 100mg in 5ml SOLUTION.</p>
Quetiapine	<p>Prescribe licensed Quetiapine 20mg/mL oral suspension sugar free</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Prescribe Quetiapine Tablets (non-MR) and label 'mix crushed tablet with yogurt and take' (not soluble)</p>
Ramipril	<p>Licensed product 2.5mg/5ml sugar free oral solution available from Rosemont. Licensed for administration via NG and PEG tubes.</p> <p>Capsules can be opened and contents mixed with apple juice/sauce to mask unpleasant taste. Tablets may crushed and dispersed in water (1)</p>
Ranitidine	<p>Prescribed licensed Ranitidine Effervescent Tablets 150mg or 300mg (Please note that effervescent tablets contain more sodium than the oral solution).</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Prescribe licensed Ranitidine 75mg/5mL oral solution sugar free or Ranitidine 150mg/5mL oral solution sugar free. Pharmacies can supply 1mL oral syringes if small doses required.</p> <p>The amount of alcohol in 75mg in 5ml ranitidine dose is equivalent to about 11ml of beer or 5ml of wine. This should be taken into account in pregnant or lactating women, high risk groups (those suffering with alcoholism, liver disease, epilepsy, brain injury) and children.</p>
Rivaroxaban	<p>No licensed liquid available</p>

	<p>Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) tablets may be crushed and mixed with water or apple puree immediately prior to use and administered orally.</p> <p>The crushed tablet may also be given through gastric tubes after confirmation of the correct gastric placement on the tube. The crushed tablet should be administered in a small amount of water via a gastric tube after which it should be flushed with water.</p> <p>After the administration or crushed Xarelto tablets the dose should then be immediately followed by food/enteral feeding as appropriate.</p>
Rosuvastatin	<p><b>Atorvastatin is first line statin for all new patients unless contra-indicated</b></p> <p>Consider licensed Atorvastatin chewable tablets sugar free (Lipitor) available as 10mg and 20mg</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Licensed liquid formulations of simvastatin oral suspension sugar free – available as 20mg/5mL or 40mg/5mL</p>
Selegiline	<p>Consider Selegiline (Zelapar) 1.25mg oral lyophilisates (orodispersible tablet)</p> <p><b>Take care when switching. See <a href="#">separate document</a>.</b></p>
Sertraline HCl	<p>If swallowing problem likely to be long-term, consider switching to SSRI which comes as a licensed liquid e.g. fluoxetine, citalopram</p> <p>Tablets can be dispersed in water or crushed and mixed with food. Most brands will disperse in water if shaken for 2-5 minutes (unlicensed). Crushed tablets have a bitter taste, and an anaesthetic effect on the tongue – use with caution and take care with hot foods after administration (1)..</p> <p>Special oral solution 50mg/5ml available from Rosemont if required</p>
Sildenafil Liq Spec 25mg/5ml	<p><b>DO NOT PRESCRIBE!</b> Specialist only prescribing for pulmonary hypertension and should be supplied by hospital where treatment was initiated. Homecare delivery service available to patients</p>
Simvastatin	<p><b>Atorvastatin is first line statin for all new patients unless contra-indicated</b></p> <p>Consider licensed Atorvastatin chewable tablets sugar free (Lipitor) available as 10mg and 20mg</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Licensed liquid formulations of simvastatin oral suspension sugar free – available as 20mg/5mL or 40mg/5mL</p>
Sodium Bicarbonate Oral Solution	<p>Licensed sodium bicarbonate 500mg capsules can be opened and the contents mixed in a glass of water as per instructions in the PIL. <b>This is the most cost effective option for patients who are unable to swallow tablets or capsules.</b></p> <p>Licensed liquid formulation is Thamicarb 84mg/ml oral solution 100ml bottle – discard unused medication 3 days after opening and 500ml bottle (discard unused medication 7 days after opening)</p>
Sodium Chloride Eye Drops 0.9% P/F	<p>Prescribe Minims® Saline (sodium chloride 0.9%) 20 x 0.5ml</p>

Sodium Chloride Eye Drops 5% P/F	For corneal oedema, recurrent corneal erosion syndrome <b>Licensed Product (Appliances not medicines)</b> Hypersal Eye Drops 5% (contains preservatives) <b>Preservative-free eye drops</b> PF Drops® Sodium Chloride 5% 10ml.
Sodium Chloride Eye Ointment 5%	Special only available from Moorfields, 5g. Consider if 5% eye drops are appropriate.
Sodium Chloride Oral Solution	Licensed formulations Sodichlor® oral solution (1mmol/ml –contains 292.5mg in 5ml) and SodiClor (5mmol/ml contains 1.46g in 5ml) review requirement regularly. (Licensed with the MHRA as a food supplement) 100ml bottles. 7 day expiry.
Sod Cromoglicate Eye Drops Aq 2% P/F	<b>Hayfever remedies are considered to be selfcare treatments and are not for FP10 prescribing.</b> If preservative free cromoglycate eye drops are required on FP10 prescription prescribe as licensed Catacrom® single use drops.
Sodium Valproate	Episenta® granules (sachets) licensed in epilepsy and bipolar disorder. Licensed 200mg/5ml oral solution SF oral solution available. (Epilim® available as crushable tablets, cronosphere MR granule sachets, liquid (sugar free) or Syrup (Note Epilim liquid is more expensive than generic sugar free liquid). N.B. MHRA guidance: for all category 2 antiepileptic drugs, prescribers are advised to use their clinical judgment to determine whether it is advisable for individual patients to be maintained on a specific manufacturer's product. <b>Take care when switching. See <a href="#">separate document</a>.</b>
Sotalol	No licensed liquid formulation available. Consider alternative licensed beta-blocker: see Atenolol/Propranolol Or Prescribe Sotalol Tablets and label 'crush tablet, mix with water and take' Or Prescribe Sotalol 25mg/5ml oral suspension
Spironolactone	Tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration (unlicensed). Most brands of tablets will disperse in water within 2-5 minutes. Special only, review requirement regularly and consider if consultant / GP could prescribe alternative. Special oral suspension 25mg or 50mg/5ml available from Rosemont if required (contains sorbitol).
Sucralfate	Oral formulations are unlicensed and are expensive as an imported product. Consider alternatives. Secondary care to prescribe and WVT Pharmacy to supply as per agreement.
Tamsulosin	Prescribe Tamsulosin capsules and label 'open capsule and dissolve the contents in water and take'

	Do crush modified release formulations.
Thiamine	Prescribe Thiamine Tablets and label 'crush tablet, mix with water and take' Tablets disperse quickly and easily.
Tizanidine HCl Liq Spec 2mg/5ml	Tablets can be crushed and mixed with water before administration (unlicensed) (1) TEVA brand tablets disperse in 10ml of water within 3 minutes. Special only liquid 2mg/5ml prescribe as oral <b>solution</b> (not suspension) if required
Tolterodine	Consider changing to Licensed solifenacin succinate oral suspension 1mg/ml Or Prescribe unlicensed Tolterodine Tablets and label 'disperse tablet in water and take'
Topiramate	Prescribe licensed Topamax® Sprinkle Capsules that can be sprinkled onto soft food. Sprinkle capsules may block an enteral tube so consider crushing tablets and suspend in water immediately before administration.
Tranexamic Acid Liq Spec 250mg/5ml	Tablets can be dispersed in water (2-5mins) or crushed and mixed with water before administration (1). Or Tranexamic acid 500mg in 5ml oral suspension (unlicensed).
Tranexamic Acid Mouthwash 5%	Special only. Available from OPS
Valaciclovir	No licensed liquid formulation available. Tablets are not dispersible. Consider using aciclovir.
Valproic acid	No licensed liquid available. <b>See Sodium Valproate – take care when switching from Valproic acid to Sodium Valproate formulations. <a href="#">See separate document</a></b>
Venlafaxine	No licensed liquid formulation available. For major depression consider alternative licensed Mirtazepine Orodispersible Tablets or Mirtazepine Oral Solution 15mg/1mL Or Prescribe Venlafaxine Tablets (non-MR) and label 'crush tablets, mix with water and take'
Vitamin D	See Colecalciferol
Warfarin	Licensed product Warfarin Sodium 1mg/1ml Oral Suspension (Rosemont) is available.  Enteral feeding: Withhold enteral feeds for one to two hours before and one to two hours after each dose. If dietary or feed intake changes significantly, INR should be monitored closely over the next few days.
Zolpidem	For short term use only check if still appropriate

	Consider alternative licensed hypnotic: Temazepam/Nitrazepam
Zonisamide oral soln 50mg/5ml	<p>Due to the indication of this treatment, the medical team should consider the risks and benefits carefully before agreeing to administer the medication in an unlicensed manner. MHRA guidance – For all category 2 antiepileptic drugs, prescribers are advised to use their clinical judgment to determine whether it is advisable for individual patients to be maintained on a specific manufacturer’s product.</p> <p>Capsules can be opened and the contents sprinkled in water or apple juice (unlicensed)</p>
Zopiclone	<p>Do not prescribe long term – consider clinical need for hypnotic. NICE judged no significant difference between hypnotics, consider licensed alternative e.g. temazepam elixir or zolpidem tablets which may be crushed and mixed with water (1)</p> <p>Special only liquid 3.75mg/5ml prescribe as oral <b>solution</b> (not suspension) if required (available from Martindale, 1 month expiry)</p> <p>Zopiclone tablets are not suitable for crushing or dissolving and should not be used as the powder will thicken quickly and may block enteral feeding tubes.</p>

For more information on alternative preparations and/or administration e.g. for patients with enteral feeding tubes or paediatrics please contact the Medicines Information team at Wye Valley NHS Trust 01432 364017 or the Regional Medicines Information team on 0121 7247298 or [wmmis@heartofengland.nhs.uk](mailto:wmmis@heartofengland.nhs.uk)

NB whilst prescribers can advise community pharmacists of a cost-effective supply route they cannot insist they use this source. If in doubt, contact your Practice Pharmacist or Medicines Management Team for advice:

Email: [medsopt@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk](mailto:medsopt@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk) Tel 01432 260618

**Key P/F = Preservative Free S/F = Sugar Free**

**(1) Tablets suitable for crushing – swallowing difficulties (NEWT 3.5). Prepare as follows:-**

- Crush the tablet with a tablet crusher or between two metal spoons
- Add the powder to 15-30ml of water and mix well
- If necessary, draw solution up into oral (or bladder tipped) syringe to administer the dose
- Rinse syringe/container with water and drink/give to patient to maximise dose
- DO NOT crush in plastic containers or use boiling water to dissolve powder

**(2) Capsules - swallowing difficulties (NEWT 3.7). Contact medicines information for advice - 01432 364017**

- Gently ease open the capsule to release the powder
- Tip the powder into a beaker being sure to retain all the powder
- Mix powder with 15-30ml of water
- If necessary, draw solution up into oral (or bladder tipped) syringe to administer the dose
- Rinse syringe/container with water and drink/give to patient to maximise dose

**(3) Injections given orally – swallowing difficulties (NEWT 3.6) Contact medicines information for advice - 01432 364017**

Use of injections orally is usually an expensive method of administration and not recommended in primary care except on specific advice

## Appendix 1: Contact details for some manufacturers / suppliers of Special Order Medicines

NB This list is not exhaustive and includes only those suppliers referred to in the A-Z table; other suppliers are available.

Company	Address	Tel. No.	Email / Fax
IDIS Ltd		01932 824000	<a href="http://www.idispharma.com">www.idispharma.com</a>
Martindale Pharma	Regent House, Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex. CM14 4JC United Kingdom <a href="http://www.martindalepharma.co.uk">http://www.martindalepharma.co.uk</a>	0800 137627	<a href="mailto:order@martindalepharma.co.uk">order@martindalepharma.co.uk</a>
Oxford Pharmacy Store (OPS) (NHS Supplier)	Unit 42, Sandford Lane Industrial Estate, Sandford Lane, Kennington, Oxford. OX1 5RW <a href="http://www.oxfordpharmacystore.co.uk">http://www.oxfordpharmacystore.co.uk</a>	01865 321085	<a href="mailto:ops.orders@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk">ops.orders@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk</a> Fax No: 01865 321090
South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NHS Manufacturer)	Pharmacy Manufacturing Unit, Kemmings Close, Long Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ4 7BL	01803 664707	
Rosemont Pharmaceuticals Ltd	Rosemont House, Yorkdale Industrial Park, Braithwaite Street, Leeds. LS11 9XE	0113 2441999	<a href="http://www.rosemontpharma.com">www.rosemontpharma.com</a>
Moorfields Pharmaceuticals (NHS Manufacturer)	25 Provost Street, London. N1 7NH	020 76849090	<a href="http://www.moorfieldspharma.co.uk">www.moorfieldspharma.co.uk</a>
Pharma Nord	Pharma Nord (UK) Ltd, Telford Court, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2DB <a href="http://www.pharmanordspecials.com">http://www.pharmanordspecials.com</a>	01670 534901	<a href="mailto:specials@pharmanord.com">specials@pharmanord.com</a> Fax No: 01670 534902

The information contained in this guidance is issued on the understanding that it is the best available from the resources at our disposal at the time of issue