

## Trimethoprim Prophylaxis

### **Name of medicine: Trimethoprim**

### **Why is it important for my child to take trimethoprim?**

Trimethoprim is an antibiotic. At lower doses it is used as prophylactic (preventative) therapy to reduce the chances of developing infections of the urinary tract in babies at risk.

### **When should I give trimethoprim?**

Trimethoprim should be given ONCE a day at night to prevent infections occurring. Try to give it at the same time each night.

### **How long does my baby need to take trimethoprim?**

The need for trimethoprim will be reviewed by the specialist team at Alder Hey caring for your baby. Do not stop giving the trimethoprim unless told to by a healthcare professional.

### **How much trimethoprim should I give?**

The amount (dose) of the medicine is 2mg per kg of body weight. The amount of medicine to give will be clearly shown on the label on the medicine. It will be written with the millilitre (ml) dose that needs to be administered. The dose does not need to be changed every time they grow a little bit, but your GP should adjust the dose monthly based on your baby's new weight. Please see below the best way to obtain new weights for your baby.

### **How should I give Trimethoprim?**

Measure out the right amount using an oral syringe provided, following the steps below. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount.

1. Check the bottle of trimethoprim is labelled for your baby with the dose to be given
2. Check that the medicine is in date
3. Place the syringe into the bottle and pull on the plunger to draw medicine into the syringe
4. If the syringe has air bubbles in, they can be removed by pulling back the plunger, so the air bubbles rise to the top of the syringe
5. If you have too much medicine in the syringe place it back into the bottle.

### **Can I mix the dose with milk?**

There is no known interaction between trimethoprim and milk. If you think your baby will tolerate better if given with milk, we advise you to administer in 5-10ml of milk only. This is to make sure the baby takes the full amount and gets the required dose of trimethoprim.

### **What if my child is sick (vomits) after a dose?**

If your baby is sick (a substantial amount) within 30 minutes of giving the medicine you can give the same dose again. If your baby is sick 30 minutes after giving the medicine you do not have to give another dose; wait for the next normal dose.

### **What if I forget to give a dose?**

Give the missed dose as soon as you remember ensuring it is at least 12 hours before the next dose. Never give double the dose to make up for a missed dose. You do not need to wake a sleeping baby to give a missed dose.

### **What if I give too much?**

You are unlikely to cause harm if you give an extra dose of trimethoprim by mistake. If you are concerned that you may have given too much, contact your doctor or local NHS services.

### **Are there any possible side effects?**

Side effects are rare and if they do occur are mild. Side effects include skin rashes and diarrhoea. Contact your doctor if your child has diarrhoea that goes on for more than 4 days or if it is severe and watery or contains blood. Your child's skin may become more sensitive to sunlight. Keep them out of strong sun and apply normal precautions to sun exposure in babies. There may be other side effects that are not listed above, if you are concerned, contact your doctor.

### **Can other medicines be given at the same time as Trimethoprim?**

Trimethoprim should not be taken with some medicines. Always tell your doctor or pharmacist that your baby is taking trimethoprim before giving any other medications to your baby. This includes herbal and complementary medicines.

### **Where should I keep this medicine?**

Store the trimethoprim in its original container, out of reach of children and below 25 degrees.

### **How do I get a continued supply of trimethoprim?**

You will be provided with approximately 4 weeks supply upon discharge, but a letter will be supplied and must be given to your GP surgery to ensure they have all the information to continue supply of trimethoprim. Please give the letter to the GP as soon as possible so you do not run out.

Trimethoprim is a weight-based medicine and to ensure your baby is on the correct dose, please attend a well-baby clinic in your local area to get your baby weighed regularly. Please provide this weight/your babies red book to the GP when asking for a repeat prescription.

## **Who to contact for more information?**

Your baby's doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about trimethoprim and about other medicines. The specialist team at Alder Hey can provide further information about length of treatment and any changes to your baby's care.

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Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust  
Crown Street  
Liverpool  
L8 7SS

Tel: 0151 708 9988

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