

## Other things to remember

All medicines to take home will be prescribed and will have your baby's name and correct dose on the label.

You will need to register your baby with a GP before you go home so that they can write any repeat prescriptions that you will need.

You may need to sterilise the syringes between doses when at home. This should always be done in a cold water steriliser as steam will melt the syringe



This information leaflet was designed and produced by the East Midlands Neonatal Operational Delivery Network.

For further information on what we do, please visit our website; [www.emnodn.nhs.uk](http://www.emnodn.nhs.uk)



East Midlands Neonatal  
Operational Delivery Network

A close-up photograph of a baby's face, showing the nose and mouth. A hand is holding a syringe, which is being used to administer medication into the baby's mouth. The baby is wearing a blue and white striped garment.

# Giving Oral Medication on the Neonatal Unit & Transitional Care

## Parent Information

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Your baby may need to have oral medicine. These will start whilst on the neonatal unit and some may continue when you take your baby home.

Whilst your baby is on the neonatal unit the medicine may be given down the naso-gastric tube (NGT).

When your baby is getting ready to go home we will show you how to give the medicines.

While your baby is a patient on the neonatal unit the nurses will be checking your baby's medicines. You may be able to give them yourself once you have been shown by a nurse.

The nursing staff will discuss and demonstrate to you how to be involved in giving your baby medicine while he/she is on the neonatal unit and once he/she is at home.

## Equipment

- Oral syringe (we use the smallest one which will hold the dose)
- Bottle adapter (to fit on the bottle)
- Medicine
- pH sticks (if being given down a tube)

While your baby is on the neonatal unit one or two registered nurses will check the medicine to be given. They will have checked if the dose is due, that it is in date and that is it the correct medicine. These are the checks that you will do when you take your baby home.

## Giving the Medicine

Wash your hands.

If your baby is being tube fed, you will need to check the pH of the tube as you would before feeding your baby.

If your baby is being orally fed put the medicine into a small amount of milk (this is common practice as some medicines have strong, bitter tastes which can cause baby to gasp and cough). Do not put the medicine into the whole feed as your baby may not complete the feed and it will also taint the taste of all the milk.

You can give this medicine mixed with milk in the teat, in a bottle or if breast feeding and preferred off a spoon.

Some medicines such as Infacol (used for colic) if prescribed can be given without mixing.

Each baby is different and some might be happy to have the mixture put from the syringe directly into the side of the mouth and this is done gradually as you slowly press the plunger.

Do not squirt it directly into the mouth in one go, and do not aim it directly into the centre of your baby's mouth. This can make your baby choke.

Always give the medicine at the beginning of a feed, unless stated otherwise on the bottle or as recommended by the nursing team.

Put the used syringes in the correct disposal place, you will be shown where this is by the staff.

Wash your hands.