Paediatric Omeprazole Prescribing Policy

Introduction

Omeprazole is licensed for use in children from 1 year and > 10kg for the treatment of reflux oesophagitis, symptomatic treatment of heartburn and acid regurgitation in gastroesophageal reflux disease. It is also licensed for the treatment of duodenal ulcers in children > 4 years.

It is often necessary to prescribe omeprazole to children younger than 1 year old and outside of licensed indications. Information is given on prescribing appropriate doses in these cases in the BNF for Children. Some children require doses smaller than 10mg dispersible tablet (the lowest available licensed dosage unit). This policy outlines NHS Kirklees policy on how this should be prescribed. This policy only applies where patients have been initiated in secondary care and parents/guardians have been provided with appropriate training.

Prescription

- All patients requiring doses of omeprazole less than 10mg should be prescribed omeprazole dispersible 10mg tablets.

- The dose should be prescribed as “Take X milligrams daily. Disperse tablet in 10ml water and administer Xml”.

Procedure for drawing up doses

- The patient should disperse the omeprazole 10mg dispersible tablet in 10ml of water to make a 1mg per ml mixture immediately prior to administration.

- The mixture should be stirred and an appropriate volume of liquid equivalent to the required dose should be drawn up using an oral syringe e.g. 6ml for a 6mg dose.

- Any remaining liquid should be discarded.