
Antibiotic tablets/capsules/syrup

Examples: Amoxicillin, Erythromycin, Cefalexin (Tenkorex®)

How do antibiotics work?

Antibiotics prevent or treat infections caused by bacteria. They do this by killing bacteria or preventing them from growing. Eye drops or ointments are generally given to treat infections at the front of the eye. For some infections, your child might be given antibiotic tablets, capsules or syrup.

There are many different types of antibiotics and your child has been given the best one for their problem. It might take a few days before your child feels better.

What should I tell the pharmacist or doctor?

Tell the pharmacist or doctor if your child is allergic to any antibiotic, or other medication.

How often and for how long should I give antibiotics?

Antibiotics need to be taken at regular times throughout the day. The pharmacist or doctor will tell you how frequently, and whether the antibiotics need to be taken with food or on an empty stomach. For syrups, ask your pharmacist if you need a 5ml spoon or an oral syringe. Antibiotic syrups need the bottle to be well shaken before use.

You should always complete the full course of treatment, even if your child seems better, as otherwise the infection may return.

What are the main side effects?

Mild side effects: Antibiotics can sometimes cause an upset stomach, diarrhoea or an unpleasant taste.

Allergic reactions: The signs of an allergic reaction can include:

- Severe redness, swelling and irritation of the eye or eyelids
- Swelling of eyelids, lips or face
- Difficulty breathing
- Rash on the skin

If your child experiences any of these symptoms stop the medication and seek medical attention.

How do you store antibiotics?

Tablets and capsules can usually be stored at room temperature in their original packaging. Some syrups need to be stored in the fridge and have an expiry date of five to 14 days. Check with your pharmacist when you need to discard the medication.

Do not use medicines after the expiry date written on the packaging.

Need more information?

Please refer to the packaging and product leaflet for further information or contact the pharmacy department on: 020 7566 2362

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Ph: 020 7253 3411 www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345

Monday to Friday 09.00 to 16.30 for further information and advice.