

Furosemide 50mg/5ml oral liquid will likely be in short supply for the rest of this year. The SBAR below has been circulated within UHL and the wider Leicestershire Health Community via the Leicestershire Medicines Strategy Group. It is recognised however that families accessing services within the wider EMCHN may not have received information on this issue.

Information for EMCHN hospitals: Please do consider how you can support your families who may be experiencing difficulties during this time of shortage. A leaflet is available to print/download via the YourHealth website here.

<https://yourhealth.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/library/csi/pharmacy/1874-when-there-is-a-supply-issue-with-your-usual-liquid-medicine-adults-children>



Supply issue with Furosemide oral solution 50mg/5ml

S ituation	Pharmaceutical manufacturers have informed us that there is a supply problem with Furosemide oral solution 50mg in 5ml, likely to continue until the end of 2021. Tablets and other strengths of solutions remain unaffected.
B ackground	Furosemide oral solution is mainly used for paediatric cardiac patients; however there is also some use in adults who are unable to swallow tablets. UHL exclusively use the 50mg/5ml oral solution to avoid dosing confusion caused by interchanging strengths and to simplify dose volume calculations (10mg/ml).
A ssessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tablets of 20mg and 40mg remain unaffected; part tablets may be used by those able to swallow.• Furosemide solution is presented in a number of strengths, the preferred replacement being 40mg in 5ml.

R ecommendation

- In order to preserve remaining liquid stock supplies, tablets should be considered for all patients over the age of 5 years with a dose divisible by 10.
 - Clinicians and other patient facing staff should be alert to the potential for clinical deterioration due to **under** dosing which may be explained by confusion between different strengths provided in different clinical settings.
 - Calculated volumes will be 20% greater with the 40mg in 5ml preparation which will lead to an approximately proportional increased exposure to medicine excipients including alcohol. Clinicians should be alert to the possibility of adverse effects, especially in neonates.
- All staff involved in the administration and/or supply of this product will need to take care with the calculation of the volume to be administered and ensure that patients/parents/carers are advised to be alert to the changes in strengths which may be supplied and the resultant differences in the volume of medication to be administered.