



## MEDICATION SAFETY COMMUNIQUÉ

<b>Subject:</b>	Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole 40mg/200mg per 5mL suspension shortage		
<b>Purpose of this Notice:</b>	Information		
<b>Issued by:</b>	Pharmacy Department	<b>Issue Date:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> of September 2023
<b>Approved by:</b>	Leith Lilley, Acting Director Pharmacy, QCH		
<b>Issue and Impact within CHQ:</b>	<p>The TGA has advised that the nation-wide shortage of the “Septrin” suspension and the S19A approved alternative brand, called “Nopil” suspension will be unavailable until November 2023.</p> <p>The QCH Pharmacy team is working with Central Pharmacy to urgently source an alternative brand.</p> <p>Local Community Pharmacies will likely not be able to procure stock during the period of the shortage. Be aware that patients may not be able to source this medication from community pharmacies and will need to collect supply from a Queensland Health Hospital Pharmacy.</p>		
<b>Target Audience:</b>	<b>Action Required:</b>		
All CHQ Staff	<p>Antimicrobial stewardship principles should be applied to all paediatric prescriptions for Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole.</p> <p><b>Consider if this is the most appropriate antibiotic choice for the patient’s condition or if there is a suitable alternative available</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review microbiology and sensitivity results in context of patient’s clinical condition and age when considering most suitable oral antibiotic option.</li></ul> <p><b>If only Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole can be used, please consider if another dosage form (eg tablets) could be suitable.</b></p> <p><b>For patients receiving medicines exclusively via enteral feeding tubes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Please contact the QCH Infectious diseases team to discuss alternative antibiotic options that may be suitable.</li><li>There is an increased risk of tube blockage if crushed/dispersed tablets are used.</li></ul> <p><b>For all other patients:</b></p> <p>Use Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole 80/400mg or 160/800mg strength tablets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>For a Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole 40mg (Trimethoprim component) dose:</u> Give HALF an 80/400mg Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole tablet.</li><li><u>For a Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole 60mg (Trimethoprim component) dose:</u> Give THREE QUARTERS of an 80/400mg Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole tablet.</li></ul> <p>If unable to swallow tablet, crush and mix half (or three quarters) of a tablet in small amount of water/mix with soft food/custard before administering.</p>		
<b>Contact for further information:</b>	<p>Please contact the Infectious Diseases Team on 07 3068 4421 or the AMS Pharmacist on 0436 815 492, if you need assistance with selecting an alternative antibiotic choice.</p> <p>Please contact Pharmacy - Claire George (Clinical Lead – Materials Management) on 07 3068 1945 if you have any questions regarding supply.</p>		

