

Cotrimoxazole Oral Suspension

Products on Saskatchewan Formulary:¹

Product Name	Dosage Form	DIN	Manufacturer
Novo-Trimel	40 mg/8 mg per ml	00726540	NOP

Further products listed on Drug Product Database:²

Apotex and Nu-Pharm products appear on the DPD, but according to Customer Service Representatives, neither continues to manufacture the suspension.

Trisulfa S by JaaPharm is listed on DPD but there is no listing in McKesson; customer service has not replied to message left as of May 20, 2011.

Potential Options:

1. Documentation of an extemporaneous suspension exists using ground tablets and simple syrup,³ though the original reference is not accessible.⁴ To be prudent, store in fridge and apply a beyond use date of 14 days based on USP guidelines.⁵
2. If the dose is easily obtained from a tablet (full tablet or ½ tablet), crush the tablet immediately before administration and mix with soft food or water.
3. If the drug is being administered through an enteral tube, general recommendations are to crush the tablet into a fine powder, mix into a slurry with water making sure to flush the tube both prior to and after administration of the slurry.⁶

The Pharmacy Department at WRHA Drug Information Centre in Winnipeg plans to dissolve the tablet in water for immediate administration. "For Apo-Sulfatrim DS tablets you need at least 15 mL of water for the tablet to breakdown and suspend. Because of the large amount of powder in the tablet it settles quickly, so it has to be shaken well and administered immediately."⁷

4. Consider alternative antibiotic. If trimethoprim alone is appropriate, written formulations are available. (Call or email for such.)

References:

1. Saskatchewan Formulary, Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch [homepage on the Internet]. Government of Saskatchewan; [updated 2010 Jul 29; cited 2011 May 20]. Available from: <http://formulary.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca/>
2. Health Canada. Drug Product Database Online Query. Ottawa, ON: Health Canada; [updated 2010 Apr 1; cited 2011 May 20]. Available from: <http://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/dispatch-repartition.do?lang=eng>
3. Trissel LA. Trissel's Stability of Compounded Formulations, 4th ed. Washington, DC: American Pharmacists Association; 2009. p.156.
4. Wu FLL, Shen LJ, Yang CC, et al. Stability of extemporaneous suspensions of co-trimoxazole. Chin Pharm J. 1999; 51:93-102.
5. United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. USP Pharmacists' Pharmacopeia. 2nd ed. Rockville, MD: US Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc.; 2008.
6. Beckwith CM, Feddema SS, Barton RG, et al. A guide to drug therapy in patients with enteral feeding tubes: dosage form selection and administration methods. Hosp Pharm; 2004; 39(3): 225-237.
7. Written communication posted to CSHP ListServ by Brenda Rosenthal, B. Sc.Pharm. Winnipeg, MB. 2011 May 12.