Dear parents/carers,

There has been a significant manufacture/ supply chain issue at a national level with Liquid Oxcarbazepine medication. Our pharmacy team has contacted the manufacturer, and it is possible that this will remain a problem for a long time.

It is unsafe to stop epilepsy medications abruptly, and hence, we had to  make a decision to change your child’s prescription from liquid medication to a tablet formulation of Oxcarbazepine. The dose of your child’s medication is unchanged (or the dose of your child’s medication has been adjusted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so that it can be dispensed as tablets). We would like to reassure you, that this should not alter your child’s seizure control. However, if you notice any worsening in their seizure control, then, please do contact us.  If this is the case, we may have to make a decision to stop Oxcarbazepine, and, commence a new medication.

There may be two or more different strengths of the tablets to make up the correct dose.  Please read carefully the strength of each tablet to know the correct dose is going to be administered.

If your child is unable to swallow the tablets whole it may help to split the tablet in half along the scored line and give both the halves.

If your child is unable to swallow tablets the following advice needs to be followed;

- The tablets will need to be crushed and dispersed between two spoons over a plate

- The crushed tablet can be either mixed with a small amount of soft food such as yoghurt, honey or jam OR tipped into a glass and mixed with water or fruit juice/squash (to mask the taste).  Either way ensure your child swallows it all straight away without chewing.

- If dispersing in water or fruit juice/squash add more water or squash to the emptied glass and swirl it round and ask your child to drink it.  This makes sure they get all the medicine.

-For administration via enteral tube please disperse tablet powder in to water and mix to fully disperse the powder in water before drawing up into an administration syringe.  Flush the tube before and after administration.

By copying your GP into this letter, we shall request them to change your child’s medication to the above formulation, and, place it on repeat until further notice. Please continue to collect repeat prescriptions from your GP as usual.

Please feel free to contact the epilepsy team, if you have further queries.

See below link for video instruction on crushing and dispersing tablets for oral administration

[www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/advice-guides/giving-medicines/how-to-give-medicines-tablets/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.medicinesforchildren.org.uk%2Fadvice-guides%2Fgiving-medicines%2Fhow-to-give-medicines-tablets%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwael.elsayed2%40nhs.net%7C75695f55924d4c03197a08db92848f18%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638264870258037354%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jvR7nrZkriosx7fLZbe7U9uo2Mg4mM7%2FNrZat6wQe3U%3D&reserved=0)

See below link on administering the dispersed tablet in water via a Nasogastric tube

[www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/advice-guides/giving-medicines/nasogastric-tube-ng-tube/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.medicinesforchildren.org.uk%2Fadvice-guides%2Fgiving-medicines%2Fnasogastric-tube-ng-tube%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwael.elsayed2%40nhs.net%7C75695f55924d4c03197a08db92848f18%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638264870258037354%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=svvbgoky6VtnZFE0vGgrrvhhpbZgOwwerjuXQ6Pvm%2FU%3D&reserved=0)

See below link on administering the dispersed tablet in water via a gastrostomy tube

[www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/advice-guides/giving-medicines/gastrostomy-tube/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.medicinesforchildren.org.uk%2Fadvice-guides%2Fgiving-medicines%2Fgastrostomy-tube%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cwael.elsayed2%40nhs.net%7C75695f55924d4c03197a08db92848f18%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638264870258037354%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lBGmvr84e5dikfOxRgYEE7A7Jk6tI%2B7r2yK%2Fb5qRR5s%3D&reserved=0)

Thank you

SIGNATURE,