

## Algorithm for prescribing PPIs in Children

### Child Weight

Obtain weight on initiation and at time of review

Dose as per [BNFc](#) or current effective dose. Choose the most cost-effective product that is suitable for the patient.

**N.B. the most important factor limiting the use of the enteric coated granules is the bore size of the enteral feeding tube. Weight is a good guide but there may be some children >10kg with a <8FR feeding tube who may need the omeprazole oral suspension. If a child weighing ≥10kg has an enteral feeding tube <8FR they may also require omeprazole oral suspension SF**

Are medicines administered via a feeding tube?

YES



**<10kg via tube**

Esomeprazole granule sachet\* (NG tube >6Fr)  
Omeprazole oral suspension SF<sup>L1M</sup> and dose as per [BNF-c](#) 20mg/5ml strength preferred due to a lower relative concentration of preservatives per mg.

Note that dispersible tablets likely to block tubes <8FR

**10-20kg via tube**

Esomeprazole granule sachet<sup>L1</sup>

**>20kg via tube**

Omeprazole/Lansoprazole capsules opened and mixed with water OR  
Esomeprazole granule sachet<sup>L1</sup>.

NO



**< 10kg oral**

Mezzopram dispersible tablets<sup>OL</sup> (round dose to nearest half or quarter)  
Note: tablet cutter required as not scored – see [administration note](#).  
Esomeprazole granule sachet<sup>L1</sup>

**≥10kg – 15kg oral**

Mezzopram dispersible tablets<sup>L1</sup>  
Lansoprazole dispersible tablet<sup>OL</sup>  
Note: tablet cutter required as not scored – see [administration note](#).  
Esomeprazole granule sachet<sup>L1</sup>

**≥15 - 30kg oral**

Mezzopram<sup>®</sup> dispersible tablets<sup>L1</sup> or Omeprazole capsule<sup>L1</sup>.  
Lansoprazole capsule<sup>OL</sup> or dispersible tablet<sup>OL</sup>  
Esomeprazole granule sachet<sup>L1</sup>

**≥ 30kg oral**

Lansoprazole capsule<sup>OL</sup> or dispersible tablet<sup>OL</sup>  
Omeprazole dispersible tablets<sup>L1</sup> or capsule<sup>L1</sup>  
Esomeprazole granule sachet<sup>L1</sup>

Doses as per BNFc – can round dose to nearest quarter or half tablet. This is still more accurate than giving a precise dose of the liquid formulation with very uncertain bioavailability

Omeprazole powder for oral suspension must be initiated by a specialist taking into consideration the electrolyte content (see [eSPC](#))

\*Must be prescribed as Nexium<sup>®</sup>

Advice on how to teach a child to swallow solid dosing forms is available on [medicinesforchildren.org.uk](https://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk).

**L1 – licensed for children over 1 year of age and ≥10kg**

**L1M – licensed for children over 1 month of age**

**OL – Off-Label**

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Appendix 1: Cost and Place in Therapy for PPIs in Children

PPI	Formulation	Cost per 28 days	Licensing	Traffic light classification	Children who cannot swallow tablets	Children with enteral feeding tubes	Place in Therapy	Comments
Omeprazole	10mg and 20mg gastro-resistant capsules	10mg - £0.98 20mg - £1.02	Licensed in children >1 year and >10kg	GREEN [R]	most brands can be opened (licensed) and mixed with water or a slightly acidic fluid e.g. fruit juice, apple sauce.	No	1st Line	Bead size: Large (~1mm)
Omeprazole	10mg, 20mg and 40mg dispersible gastro-resistant tablets. (Mezzopram® is preferred due to smaller granule sizes) Losec Mups® should not be prescribed unless Mezzopram is out of stock.	10mg - £6.58 20mg - £9.86 40mg - £19.72	Licensed in children >1 year and >10kg	GREEN [R]	Disperse the tablets in water, then mix with orange/apple/pineapple juice, apple sauce or yoghurt	No	1st Line	Bead size: Small (~0.2mm). Tablets are not scored but can easily be halved or quartered with a sharp knife. Neutral taste. Cordial can be added to water if needed.
Omeprazole	20mg/5ml and 10mg/5ml oral suspension SF	20mg/5ml 2x75ml - £402.20 10mg/5ml 2x75ml - £207.86	Licensed in children >1month	BLUE with no information sheet (on recommendation)	No	Yes for tube feeds <8FR	2nd line for restrictions (<10kg <8Fr)	No enteric coating so possibly more likely to be degraded by stomach acid. 20mg/5ml is preferred strength as proportion of sodium and potassium per dose is less. To be switched to Mezzopram® when enteral feeding tube removed or larger gauge in use. <b>NON-FORMULARY for all other indications/patients</b>
Lansoprazole	15mg and 30mg capsules	15mg - £1.00 30mg - £1.25	Not licensed in children however established use: <a href="#">Lansoprazole   Drugs   BNFC   NICE</a>	GREEN [R]	Some capsules are licensed to be opened and have their contents mixed with water, apple/tomato juice or sprinkled on soft food (e.g. yoghurt, apple puree) for people with swallowing difficulties	No	2nd Line	Bead size: Large (~1mm)
Lansoprazole	15mg and 30mg orodispersible tablets (Zoton FasTab®)	15mg - £3.15 30mg - £4.63	Not licensed in children however established use: <a href="#">Lansoprazole   Drugs   BNFC   NICE</a>	GREEN [R]	Orodispersible tablets disperse in the mouth to release gastro-resistant granules. Lansoprazole is NOT absorbed sublingually. The gastro-resistant granules must be swallowed for the medicine to be effective. The FasTabs® can also be administered in apple or orange juice.	No	2nd line	Bead size: Small ~0.2mm
Esomeprazole	10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets (Nexium®)	£25.19	Licensed in children >1year and >10kg	GREEN [R]	Yes – where parents/carers are having difficulties in giving part-dose using orodispersible tablets	Yes (see product spc)	1st line for restrictions (enteral feeding tubes 6F or larger)	Bead size: Small ~0.2mm Sachet contains beads and a thickening agent, Tastes slightly sweet and unoffensive. For use in enteral feeding tubes FR<6 Must be prescribed by brand for children <1 and enteral feeding tubes 6FR or larger.