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| Acetylcysteine |
| Preparations listed in the Drug tariff | [**Part VIIIA (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIA) |  **DT price** |
| Acetylcysteine 200mg oral powder sachets sugar free | £112.50 for 30 |
| Acetylcysteine 600mg capsules | £39.95 for 30 |
| Acetylcysteine 600mg effervescent tablets sugar free (Aceteff) | £89.50 for 30 |
| [**Part VIIIB (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIB) | **DT price** |
| None |  |
| Administration in swallowing difficulties |
| Dissolve the contents of one sachet in a glass containing a little water just before use, stirring as needed with a teaspoon. Upon opening the sachet the powder may smell of sulphur (rotten egg) which is normal. Upon addition of water the solution will have a citrus odour1.Dissolve one Aceteff tablet completely in a glass of waterbefore taking2, however, one NACSYS tablet (£5.50 for 307) dissolves in half a glass of water3. During storage, a slight odour of hydrogen sulphide occurs as part of the normal aging process2,3. This is harmless and does not affect the tolerability or its effectiveness. |
| Administration in enteral feeding tube |
| Dissolve one NACSYS tablet in half a glass of water and administer the resulting solution via an oral syringe (unlicensed)4. Please note: acetylcysteine can react with rubber (natural rubber/latex) and metal3,4. Glass and/or plastic delivery systems are recommended when administering NACSYS via nasogastric or nasointestinal tube3. Silicone tubing may also be acceptable4. |
| Comments |
| Do not mix antibiotics and acetylcysteine prior to administration due to the possibility of in-vitro inactivation of the antibiotics (mainly β-lactam antibiotics e.g. penicillins and cephalosporins) 3.Colonis Pharma do not have any information on administration of acetylcysteine powder via a feeding tube5. Dunelm Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of Aceteff was contacted for information but there was no response. |
| References1. Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) Acetylcysteine 200mg powder (Colonis Pharma) last updated 4/7/2018. [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) accessed 22 May 2019
2. SPC Aceteff 600mg effervescent tablets (Dunelm Pharmaceuticals) last updated 5/4/17 [http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/groups/spcpil/documents/spcpil/con1491543031052.pdf accessed 23 May 2019](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/groups/spcpil/documents/spcpil/con1491543031052.pdf%20accessed%2023%20May%202019)
3. SPC NACSYS 600mg effervescent tablets (Atlantic Pharma) last updated 11/5/17. [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) accessed 4/6/2019
4. Email correspondence on file: NACSYS. Atlantic Pharma Medicines information. Received 24 May 2019
5. Email correspondence on file: Acetylcysteine. Colonis Pharma Medicines information. Received 17 May 2019
6. Drug Tariff May 2019 <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff> date accessed 23 May 2019
7. NHSBSA Dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) NACSYS price last updated 16/10/2017 <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dictionary-medicines-and-devices-dmd> date accessed 17 July 2019
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| **Please note: full instructions should be provided to the person administering the medicine. This is guidance only and should not determine individualised care.** |
| Author: Vicki Kong, QIPP Programme Pharmacist, BHR CCGsApproved by BHR CCGs Area Prescribing sub-Committees: July 2019 |
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