

Loperamide formulations for high output stoma/short bowel syndrome

Target Audience: Prescribers, nurses, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians involved in the use of loperamide for these indications

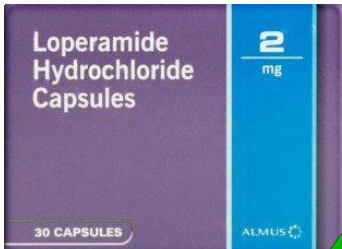







There are no licensed formulations for high stoma output/short bowel syndrome, but this is an accepted off-label use. **Capsules are the most cost effective formulation and should be used first line in all patients with high output stoma/short bowel syndrome.**

However, there are anecdotal reports of whole capsules being excreted in patients with particularly high output, potentially leading to treatment failure. In such cases, capsules should be opened and the powder contents dispersed in 10mL water, taken orally.

If patients cannot tolerate the taste, or if they struggle to manipulate capsules in this way, unlicensed 25mg/5mL syrup may be prescribed. This preparation is on the formulary, has local agreement for unlicensed use in this patient group, is sorbitol free and has an expiry date of three months. It can be supplied for discharge, but ideally patient symptoms would be resolved during their inpatient stay.

DO NOT use orodispersible tablets as the packaging is difficult to manipulate, there are anecdotal reports of immediate disintegration upon touch, the cost is very high and this preparation is non-formulary. Patients taking this formulation on admission should have treatment reviewed as per the above protocol, or arrange for their own supply to be brought in from home if they wish.

NEVER use standard 1mg/5mL syrup as the sorbitol content will likely exacerbate symptoms.

Comparative cost of loperamide formulations, per patient, per year, for a dose of 12mg QDS			
<i>2mg capsules</i>	<i>25mg/5mL syrup</i>	<i>2mg tablets (non-formulary)</i>	<i>2mg orodispersible tablets (non-formulary)</i>
£98.11	£391.05	£753.36	£3,089.36
 	 	 	 

Following this protocol will ensure patients are treated appropriately with an acceptable formulation whilst managing the cost of these preparations, saving approximately £10,000 per year (based on past usage).

Reference

UKMi. Can high dose loperamide be used to reduce stoma output? 2017 (cited 2018 Oct 17). Available from: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/can-high-dose-loperamide-be-used-to-reduce-stoma-output-2/>

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