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| Escitalopram |
| Preparations listed in the Drug tariff**Hover the mouse over the £ sign for DT prices** | [**Part VIIIA (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIa) | **DT price** |
| Escitalopram 5mg tablet | £3.50 for 28 |
| Escitalopram 10mg tablet | £3.38 for 28 |
| Escitalopram 20mg tablet | £4.33 for 28 |
| Escitalopram 20mg/ml oral drops sugar free (Cipralex) | £20.16 for 15ml |
| [**Part VIIIB (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIb) | **DT price** |
| None |  |
| Administration in swallowing difficulties |
| Cipralex oral drops can be mixed with water, orange juice or apple juice, 10mg = 10 drops1. There are no generic liquid formulations available. Do not chew the tablets as the taste is bitter2,3. Some tablets have a score line which allows them to be broken in half using instructions in the patient information leaflet- check the individual brand for more details.Consilient Health (generic brand) tablets4: No data to support administration after crushing the tablet. In theory they are immediate-release and uncoated so they should be able to be crushed and administered, however care would need to be taken to ensure all the crushed tablet was administered. A number of other generic manufacturers were contacted and had no information on administering their brand of escitalopram tablets for patients with swallowing difficulties. The contact information and responses are kept on file. |
| Administration in enteral feeding tube |
| Oral drops (unlicensed use)5: Stop the feed and flush. Add the correct number of drops to 10ml water in a suitable container. Draw up the solution with a syringe and administer. Rinse the container with a further 10ml water and flush. Flush the tube.Cipralex tablets: Lundbeck cannot recommend as this is unlicensed use6, however, there is no pharmacological reason why this cannot be crushed, mixed with water then given immediately via a feeding tube. Because the tablets are not very soluble, it would be prudent to ensure the tube is flushed through afterwards to prevent clogging.A number of generic manufacturers were contacted and had no information on administering their brand of escitalopram tablets for administration via a feeding tube. The contact information and responses are kept on file. |
| Comments |
| None. |
| References1. Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC). Cipralex drops (Lundbeck) last updated June 2019 [www.medicine.org.uk](http://www.medicine.org.uk) date accessed 8/1/2020
2. Patient information leaflet. Cipralex 10mg tablet (Lundbeck) last updated June 2019 [www.medicine.org.uk](http://www.medicine.org.uk) date accessed 13/1/2020
3. The NEWT guidelines for administration of medication to patients with enteral feeding tubes or swallowing difficulties. 2nd updated edition 2015
4. Email on file: Consilient Health. Pharmacolvigilance officer. Date received 6 February 2020
5. White R and Bradnam V. Handbook of Drug Administration via enteral feeding tubes. 3rd edition, 2015. Pharmaceutical Press
6. Email on file: Cipralex. Lundbeck, Medical Information. Received 10 January 2020
7. Drug Tariff January 2020 <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff>
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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 via Chairs action: June 2020 |
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