

Purpose of this procedure:

The prescribing of medicines for children must follow that for adults but with these additional procedures.

The Procedure:

- 1.0 Inclusion of age on the prescribing document is a legal requirement for children under 12 years of age, but it is preferable to state the age on all prescriptions for children. Weight is required and height and surface area may be required in secondary care.
- 2.0 Although liquid preparations are particularly suitable for children, they may contain sugar which encourages dental decay. Sugar-free medicines are preferred for long-term treatment. When a prescription for a liquid oral preparation is written and the dose ordered is smaller than 5mL an oral syringe will be supplied.
- 3.0 Parents should be advised not to add any medicine to the infant's feed, since the medicine may interact with the milk or other liquid in it; moreover the ingested dosage may be reduced if the child does not drink all the contents.
- 4.0 Parents must be warned to keep all medicines out of the reach and sight of children.

Associated materials/references:

[The Safe Use of Medicines Policy](#)

[Prescribing in hospitals and NHS Lothian healthcare settings Procedure](#)

[Prescribing in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society Procedure](#)

[Prescriptions for intravenous injections Procedure](#)