This leaflet has been written specifically about the use of this medicine in children. The information may differ from that provided by the manufacturer. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

Name of drug
Trimethoprim
Common brands: Trimopan®

Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?
It is important that your child takes this medicine in the way that your doctor has told you to so that it kills the harmful bacteria and gets rid of their infection.

What is trimethoprim available as?
• Tablets: 100 mg, 200 mg
• Liquid medicine (suspension): 50 mg in 5 mL

When should I give trimethoprim?
Trimethoprim is usually given twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. Ideally, these times are 10–12 hours apart, for example some time between 7 and 8 am, and between 7 and 8 pm. Sometimes trimethoprim is given once a day to prevent infections.
Try to give the medicine at about the same times every day, to help you remember.

How much should I give?
Your doctor will work out the amount of trimethoprim (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

It is important that you follow your doctor’s instructions about how much to give.

How should I give it?
This medicine works best when the stomach is empty, so try to give it to your child ½–1 hour before they eat. However, if your child has an upset stomach, you can give it with a small amount of food.

Tablets should be swallowed with a glass of water, milk or juice. Your child should not chew the tablets.

Liquid medicine: Shake the medicine well. Measure out the right amount using an oral syringe or a medicine spoon. You can get these from your pharmacist. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount.

It is important that you give your child the whole dose each time.

When should the medicine start working?
Your child should start to get better after taking the medicine for 2 days. It is important that they take the whole course of the medicine that has been prescribed. Do not stop early.

What if my child is sick (vomits)?
• If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of trimethoprim, give them the same dose again.
• If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of trimethoprim, you do not need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.
If your child is sick again, seek advice from your GP, pharmacist or hospital. They will decide what to do based on your child’s condition and the specific medicine involved.

What if I forget to give it?
If you remember up to 4 hours after you should have given a dose, give your child the missed dose. For example, if you usually give a dose at about 7 am, you can give the missed dose at any time up to 11 am. If you remember after that time, do not give the missed dose. Wait until the next normal dose. Do not give any extra to make up for the missed dose.

Never give a double dose of trimethoprim.

What if I give too much?
Trimethoprim is normally a safe drug. You are unlikely to do harm if you give an extra dose by mistake.
If you are concerned that you may have given too much, contact your doctor or local NHS services (111 in England and Scotland; 0845 4647 in Wales). Have the medicine or packaging with you if you telephone for advice.

Are there any possible side-effects?
We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they have other effects that we don’t want (side-effects). Side-effects are rare with trimethoprim and do not usually last for long. They will get better after a day or two as your child’s body gets used to the medicine, and should go away when the treatment course is finished.

Side-effects you must do something about
If your child gets a skin rash or itching, has problems breathing or seems short of breath or is wheezing, or if their face, throat, lips or tongue start to swell, they may be allergic to trimethoprim. Take them to hospital or call an ambulance straight away.

If your child has a bad skin rash, or itchy, peeling or blistering skin, contact your doctor straight away, as this may need treatment in hospital. Do not give your child any more trimethoprim.

Other side-effects you need to know about
• Your child may get diarrhoea, stomach pains and may feel sick or be sick (vomit) and may not feel like eating. The box on the next page gives advice about what to do.
Other side-effects you need to know about (continued)
- Contact your doctor if your child has diarrhoea that goes on for more than 4 days or if it is severe and watery, or contains blood.
- This medicine can make your child’s skin more sensitive to sunlight. Avoid bright sunlight and protect your child’s skin with clothes and high-factor sun cream.

There may, sometimes, be other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your doctor. You can report any suspected side-effects to a UK safety scheme at http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

Can other medicines be given at the same time as trimethoprim?
- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.
- Trimethoprim should not be taken with some common drugs that you get on prescription. If your child is taking any other medicines, tell your doctor and pharmacist.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal or complementary medicines.

Where should I keep this medicine?
- Keep this medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight.
- You may need to keep liquid medicine in the fridge – check the instructions on the bottle. Make sure the medicine does not freeze.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Who to contact for more information
Your child’s doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about trimethoprim and about other medicines used to treat infections.
You can also get useful information from:
England
NHS 111: 111 - www.nhs.uk
Scotland
Wales/Galw Lechyd Cymru
NHS Direct: 0845 4647 - www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk
Northern Ireland – NI Direct
NI Direct: www.nidirect.gov.uk

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk