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.

If your child has ever had a reaction to any antibiotic, check with your doctor that your child can have amoxicillin before giving it.

Name of drug
Amoxicillin (sometimes spelt amoxycillin)
Common brands: Amoxil®, Amix®, Amoram®, Amoxident®, Galenamox®, Rimoxallin®

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 amoxicillin available as?
• Capsules: 250 mg and 500 mg
• Liquid medicine (suspension): 125 mg or 250 mg in 5 mL; some may contain a small amount of sugar.

When should I give amoxicillin?
Amoxicillin is usually given three times a day. This should be first thing in the morning, early afternoon and at bedtime. Ideally, these times should be at least 4 hours apart.

How much should I give?
Your doctor will work out the amount of amoxicillin (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?
Amoxicillin can be taken with or without food.

Capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water, milk or squash (but not juice). Your child should not chew the capsules.

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. You can also dilute the right amount of medicine (measured with a spoon) in a small amount of water or milk. Make sure your child takes it all straight away.

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 amoxicillin, give them the same dose again.
• If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of amoxicillin, you do not need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

What if I forget to give it?
• If you remember up to 1 hour after you should have given a dose, give the missed dose.
• If you remember after this time, do not give the missed dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

Never give a double dose of amoxicillin.

What if I give too much?
Amoxicillin is normally a safe drug. It is unlikely to cause any problems if you give an extra dose by mistake.

If you think you may have given your child too much amoxicillin, contact your doctor or local NHS services (call 111 in England and Scotland; 111 or 0845 4647 in parts of Wales). Have the medicine container or packet 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 amoxicillin 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 is short of breath or is wheezing, or their face, lips or tongue start to swell, or they develop a rash, they may be allergic to amoxicillin. Take your child to hospital or call an ambulance straight away.
• If your child develops a lumpy red rash, tell your doctor, as your child may have glandular fever or another viral infection.

Other side-effects you need to know about
• Your child may have diarrhoea, stomach pains, feel sick or be sick (vomit) when they first start to take amoxicillin. The box overleaf gives advice on what to do.
• 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.
Important things to know about taking antibiotics

• It is important that your child completes the course of antibiotic. This means that they must take the medicine for the number of days that the doctor has told you to, or until all of the medicine has been taken. If you stop giving the antibiotic too soon, the bacteria that are left will start to multiply again, and may cause another infection. There is also a risk that these bacteria will be ‘resistant’ to the first antibiotic. This means that it might not work next time, and your child might need a different antibiotic, which might not work as well or cause more side-effects.
• Children are sometimes sick (vomit) or get diarrhoea when taking antibiotics. Encourage them to drink water to replace the fluid they have lost.
• Do not give your child any medicine to stop the diarrhoea unless your doctor has told you to.

Try to give the medicine at about the same times each day, to help you remember, and to make sure that there is the right amount of medicine in your child’s body to kill the bacteria.

Only give this medicine to your child for their current infection.

Never save medicine for future illnesses. Give old or unused antibiotics to your pharmacist to dispose of.

Only give the antibiotic to the child for whom it was prescribed. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm.

If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact your doctor for advice.

Antibiotics only kill bacteria; they do not kill viruses. This means that they do not work against colds, sore throats, flu or other infections that are caused by viruses. Your doctor will not prescribe antibiotics for these illnesses.

Amoxicillin is generally a safe antibiotic. It is given to about 3 million children a year in the UK.

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 amoxicillin and about other medicines used to treat infections.

You can also get useful information from:

England: NHS 111
Tel 111
www.nhs.uk

Scotland: NHS 24
Tel 111
www.nhs24.com

Wales: NHS Direct
Tel 0845 46 47 (2p per minute) or 111 (free)
www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk

Northern Ireland: NI Direct
www.nidirect.gov.uk

Other side-effects you need to know about (continued)

• You may see white patches inside your child’s mouth and throat, and girls may get itching or soreness around the vagina. This is caused by a fungal infection called thrush. If you think your child may have thrush, contact your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

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.

More information on side-effects can be found in the following leaflet www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/side-effects-childrens-medicines

Can other medicines be given at the same time as amoxicillin?

• You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.
• Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal or complementary medicines.

Is there anything else I need to know about amoxicillin?

Amoxicillin is a type of penicillin antibiotic. Your child should not have amoxicillin if they are allergic to penicillin antibiotics. If your child has ever had an allergic reaction or other reaction to any medicine, tell your doctor. If you have forgotten to tell your doctor, check with the doctor or pharmacist before giving amoxicillin to your child.

We take great care to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct and up-to-date. However, medicines can be used in different ways for different patients. It is important that you ask the advice of your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about something. This leaflet is about the use of these medicines in the UK, and may not apply to other countries. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG), WellChild and the contributors and editors cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of information, omissions of information, or any actions that may be taken as a consequence of reading this leaflet.

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk