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PAN MERSEY AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE

SAFETY STATEMENT

REF: S6 FINAL

FIRST APC BOARD DATE: 27 NOV 2014

LAST APC BOARD DATE: 28 FEB 2018



Pan Mersey

Area Prescribing Committee







DEXAMETHASONE injection – different injection strengths

Safety Information for dexamethasone injection

Staff prescribing, dispensing and administering dexamethasone injection should be aware of the following:

- > **In April 2014** dexamethasone 3.8mg/ml solution for injection (Aspen brand) replaced dexamethasone 4mg/ml Injection with changes in concentration, storage conditions and presentation. A number of different presentations of dexamethasone injection are now available. These differ in strength, which may create the potential for a patient to receive an incorrect dose. In addition to this, accompanying product information may also cause some misunderstanding.
- > **Prescribers:** to avoid confusion dexamethasone injection should be prescribed as dexamethasone or dexamethasone (base) and not as dexamethasone phosphate or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- > **Staff administering dexamethasone injection:**
 - if the injection is not prescribed as above - contact the prescriber for clarification and amendment of the instructions to administer
 - if staff administering dexamethasone are unsure of the injection volume to be administered - please confirm this with the prescriber prior to administration
- > **Pharmacists:** please ensure when dispensing that the clinical check includes a check of the strength and dosage in terms of dexamethasone base
- > The information overleaf gives examples of the labelling of four brands of dexamethasone 1ml injection available at the time of writing. Note: There are also other sizes of vials or ampoules e.g. 2ml.
- > Always ensure that you consult the most up to date product information for details of the various dexamethasone injections available

DEXAMETHASONE injection – different injection strengths

	Dexamethasone base (on packaging)	Volume equivalence to administer 4mg base	Storage
<p>Aspen</p> 	3.8mg/mL	1.05mL	Store in a refrigerator (2-8°C)
<p>Wockhardt</p> 	3.3mg/mL	1.2mL	Store below 25°C
<p>Hameln</p> 	3.3mg/mL	1.2mL	Store below 25°C
<p>Hospira</p> 	3.3mg/mL	1.2mL	Store below 25°C

References

1. Electronic Medicines Compendium – Summary of product Characteristics for Dexamethasone Injection (Aspen; Last Updated on eMC 14-Jun-2016, Hospira UK Ltd; Last Updated on eMC 08-Jun-2016, Wockhardt UK Ltd; Last Updated on eMC 25-May-2017, hameln pharmaceuticals ltd; Last Updated on eMC 28-Feb-2017)
2. Electronic BNF – Dexamethasone Injection (accessed August 2017) <https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/bnf/current/>
3. Dexamethasone monograph, Medusa Injectable Medicines Guide; Date published: 29/10/2014 (accessed August 2017)