

# Going home from the neonatal unit on Sytron

## Information for patients, parents and guardians

You have been given this factsheet because your baby has been prescribed Sytron (also called sodium feredetate), which is a medicine used to prevent anaemia.

### Why is it important for my baby to take this medicine?

Babies who are born at less than 36 weeks, or who have a birth weight of less than 2.5kg (5.5lbs) do not get enough iron from breast milk or term formula (a name for standard formula that you can buy in supermarkets). If the body has too little iron, it cannot make enough haemoglobin, a protein needed to carry oxygen in the blood. Having too little haemoglobin is called anaemia. Anaemia can affect growth and development. By giving your baby Sytron you can help prevent anaemia developing.

### Are there any side effects?

- Your baby's stools (poo) may look darker than usual. This is nothing to worry about.
- Iron treatment can cause irritation of the stomach, loose bowel movements or constipation. However, Sytron is less likely to cause stomach upset than other iron-containing medicines.

If you are worried that your baby is experiencing any side effects, speak to your GP. A lower dose or different iron-containing medicine may be able to be used instead.

Some babies may 'gag' due to the taste of Sytron. If you are experiencing any problems like this please discuss them with your health visitor, GP or the neonatal team at your next appointment.

### When should I give Sytron?

Sytron is given once a day. Try to give the medicine about the same time each day, as part of your baby's routine.

### How much Sytron should I give?

- If your baby is having breast milk, term formula or a prescribed hydrolysed formula, they should have 1ml of Sytron daily until they are 12 months old.
- Babies on Nutriprem 2 do not need Sytron, as this formula is made for premature babies and contains extra iron.

### **When should I start to give my baby Sytron?**

Usually when your baby is 28 days old.

### **How should I store Sytron?**

- Keep the medicine in a cupboard away from heat and direct sunlight, and out of the sight and reach of children.
- You must dispose of the bottle and any remaining contents three months after opening it. It's a good idea to make a note of the date you first open it.
- Make sure the medicine has not reached its 'best before' or 'use by' date.

### **What if my baby vomits?**

Wait until the next dose of Sytron is due, and give the normal amount. Do not give a second or double dose.

### **What if I accidentally give too much Sytron?**

Never give your baby a higher dose than has been prescribed, as it can be dangerous. If you think you have given too much contact your GP immediately, or take your baby to hospital.

### **How do I get more Sytron?**

You will be given a bottle of Sytron when your baby is discharged from hospital. Once you are home you will need to contact your GP for a repeat prescription.

### **How long will my baby need to take Sytron for?**

Your baby will need Sytron until they are one year old. It should be available on prescription from your GP.

### **Contact us**

If you have any questions or would like more information about anything in this factsheet, please contact the neonatal team on telephone: 07766 994816 (available 7.30am to 5pm, and Saturday 9am to 5pm).

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone **023 8120 4688** for help.

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