

Going home on vitamins (Sytron)

Information for patients, parents and guardians

We have given you this factsheet because we have prescribed your baby a medicine called Sytron (also called sodium feredetate). It explains what Sytron is, how it works and what the potential side effects are. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of our team.

What is Sytron?

Sytron is a medicine that contains lots of iron to help prevent anaemia (a condition in which you don't have enough red blood cells or haemoglobin to meet your body's needs).

Why does my baby need this medicine?

We have prescribed your baby Sytron because they were born prematurely (before the 37th week of pregnancy). Babies who are born at less than 36 weeks are at risk of getting anaemia, as they are not able to get enough iron from their diet (breast milk or formula milk). If your baby has too little iron, their body will not be able to make enough haemoglobin (a protein needed to carry oxygen in the blood), and they may become anaemic. Anaemia can affect your baby's growth and development. By giving your baby Sytron, you can help prevent anaemia developing.

Are there any side effects?

Sytron can cause:

- your baby's stools (poo) to look darker than usual (this is nothing to worry about)
- stomach irritation, loose bowel movements or constipation (however, Sytron is less likely to cause stomach upset than other iron-containing medicines)
- your baby to 'gag' due to the taste (if this happens, please speak to your health visitor, GP or the neonatal team at your baby's next appointment)

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

When should I start to give my baby Sytron?

Sytron is usually started when your baby is 28 days old.

How often should I give my baby Sytron?

You should give your baby Sytron once a day. Try to give the medicine about the same time each day, so it becomes part of your baby's routine.

How much Sytron should I give my baby?

If your baby is having breast milk, formula milk or a prescribed hydrolysed formula

They should have 1ml of Sytron a day until they are 12 months old.

If your baby is having Nutriprem 2

They do not need to have Sytron, as this formula is made for premature babies and contains extra iron.

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.
- Dispose of the medicine bottle and any remaining contents three months after opening it. It's a good idea to make a note of the date you first opened it.
- Make sure the medicine has not reached its 'best before' or 'use by' date.

What should I do if my baby is sick (vomits)?

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

What if I accidentally give my baby 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 your baby too much medicine, contact your GP immediately or take your baby to your nearest emergency department.

How do I get more Sytron?

We will give you a bottle of Sytron when you and your baby leave 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.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Neonatal team

Telephone: **07766 994816** (Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 5pm and Saturday, 9am to 5pm)

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