

Risk Mitigation for off-label medicines in children

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The argument

An integrated approach to risk mitigation is needed

- Goals based on specific intervention(s)
 - Maybe one goal at a time is best
- Team
- Implementation plan
- Evaluation

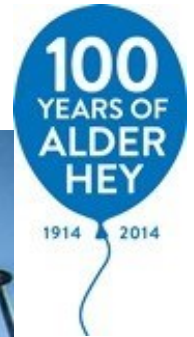


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Alder Hey Children's Hospital



Paediatric Medicines Research Unit



Aim:

To improve the health of babies, children and young people by research and development of better and safer medicines and their management.



Examples of Interventions

- Guidelines about manipulations
 - MODRIC project
 - Needs a repository



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Examples of Interventions



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A Guide for Health Professionals



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1. Introduction

1.1 Clinical question

1.2 Patients to whom the guideline is intended to apply

1.3 Target users of the guideline

1.4 Additional considerations

1.5 Guideline development

1.6 Guideline format

1.7 Recommendations

2. Dosage forms

2.1 Tablets

2.1.1 Systematic review evidence

2.1.1.1 Bioavailability outcomes

2.1.1.2 Weight and/or drug content outcomes

2.1.1.3 Methods of manipulation outcomes

2.1.1.4 Tablet shape

2.1.1.5 Scored versus unscored tablet outcomes

2.1.1.6 Additional outcomes

2.1.2 Questionnaire

2.1.3 Observational Study

2.1.4 Evidence to recommendations – tablets

2.1.5 Tablet recommendations

2.2 Capsules

2.2.1 Systematic Review evidence

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Creating a Pill School – The Kidzmed Project

Creating a pill school to teach children and young people how to take tablet medication.

The Problem

Tablets are safer, more convenient and cheaper than liquid medications. Children and young people (CYP) often remain on liquids due to habit, reluctance to change or staff and parents' lack of knowledge about switching to tablets.

Aims

This initiative started off within one team in our children's hospital to train staff and embed a system of looking for and converting eligible children to tablet medication.

TODAY WE ARE LEARNING HOW TO SWALLOW PILLS



*SEE BACK FOR CERTIFICATE

Learning and Next Steps

- Make learning fun. Learn in teams who normally work together
- Data collection is not difficult but does need close steerage. Once we had enough cost improvement data it opened doors to organisational leaders to help spread the project
- Patient and parents involvement at all stages is really helpful and helps drives the project as the improvement transformed their lives and they are keen to share their experiences

Teaching tablet swallowing is easy. This is not a new idea and we know of individual clinicians who have been teaching their patients how to swallow tablets for many years.

[Read the full publication](#) in Archives of Disease in Childhood: Tse Y, Vasey N, Dua D, et al. The KidzMed project: teaching children to swallow tablet medication. Archives of Disease in Childhood. Published Online First: 08 October 2019. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2019-317512.

Project Lead: Yincent Tse, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist; Nicola Vasey, Lead Paediatric Pharmacist; Ailsa Pickering, Senior Sister in Paediatric Infectious Disease; Emma Lim, Consultant Paediatrician.

Organisation: Great North Children's Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne

<https://qicentral.rcpch.ac.uk/medsiq/patient-support/creating-a-pill-school-the-kidzmed-project/>

CAT Study



Open access

Original research

BMJ Open Can children swallow tablets? Outcome data from a feasibility study to assess the acceptability of different-sized placebo tablets in children (creating acceptable tablets (CAT))

Louise Bracken ¹, Emma McDonough,¹ Samantha Ashleigh,² Fiona Wilson,² Joanne Shakeshaft,¹ Udemeh Ohia,² Punam Mistry,³ Huw Jones,⁴ Nazim Kanji,⁴ Fang Liu,⁵ Matthew Peak^{1,2}

To cite: Bracken L, McDonough E, Ashleigh S, *et al.* Can children swallow tablets? Outcome data from a feasibility study to assess the acceptability of different-sized placebo tablets in children (creating acceptable

ABSTRACT

Objective Feasibility study to investigate the acceptability of different-sized placebo tablets in children aged 4–12 years.

Design and setting Clinical Research Facilities, inpatient wards and outpatient clinics within a Regional Paediatric Hospital and/or District General Hospital. Healthy children and National Health Service (NHS) patients were asked to

Strengths and limitations of this study

- This study was conducted in both inpatients and healthy children to determine the overall acceptability (which includes swallowability, volume of water consumed and taste) of tablets in both children who

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/10/10/e036508.full.pdf>



STUDY PROTOCOL

PADDINGTON

Parent co-**D**esigned **D**rug **I**nformation for parents and
Guardians **T**aking **N**eonates home

Paddington



Preparation:

- What do parents want / need?
- What can staff do?
- What are the gaps?

Development of resources with parents:

- Construction
- Evaluation



The impact of paediatric dose range checking software

Table 1 Summary of prescription overdosing error data and severity of reported overdosing-related clinical incidents

	Preintervention	Postintervention
Number of electronic prescriptions completed	131612	136 803
Incidence of overdosing errors	12/847 (1.4%)	9/684 (1.3%)
Proportion of overdosing errors classified as minor errors	8/12 (66.7%)	7/9 (77.8%)
Proportion of overdosing errors classified as significant errors	4/12 (33.3%)	2/9 (22.2%)
Total overdosing-related clinical incidents	28	32
Proportion of overdosing incidents resulting in 'No Harm'	7/28 (25.0%)	17/32 (53.1%)
Proportion of overdosing incidents resulting in 'Near Misses'	20/28 (71.4%)	15/32 (46.9%)
Proportion of overdosing incidents resulting in 'Minor Harm'	1/28 (3.6%)	0/32 (0.0 %)

Neame M, et al. Eur J Hosp Pharm 2021;28:e18–e22. doi:10.1136/ejhpharm-2020-002244



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The impact of paediatric dose range checking software

Table 1 Summary of prescription overdosing error data and severity

of re	“....use of this software does not	
Numb	reliably prevent overdosing errors...	
Incide	appropriate training and prescription	
Propor	checking processes should always	
minor	continue alongside these	
Propor	interventions”	
signifi		
Total c		
Propor		
‘No Ha		
Propor		
‘Near		
Proportion of overdosing incidents resulting in	1/28 (3.6%)	0/32 (0.0 %)
‘Minor Harm’		

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Examples of “Guidelines”

2022

- ENFit system
- Off Label Use of Chloral Hydrate to sedate neonates and children in critical care
- Administration of Rectal Diazepam to Neonates and Infants to Treat Seizures Prior to Hospital Admission

2021

- Use of Steroid Medication Warning Cards for Children and Young People
- Off label use of Chloral Hydrate in the Management of Intrusive Movement and Motor Disorders in Children and Young People
- The use of chlorhexidine for skin cleansing in neonates

2020

- Alternative parenteral acid suppressants covering main indications of IV ranitidine in children
- Choosing an oral liquid medicine for children – December 2020
- Domperidone and ECG monitoring – interim statement January 2020

2019

- The use of unlicensed medicines or licensed medicines for unlicensed applications in paediatric practice – update

2018

- Using Standardised Strengths of Unlicensed Liquid Medicines in Children – updated May 2022

<http://nppg.org.uk/position-statements/>



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Has this research changed practice?

- Publication
- Journal Club
- Grand Round
- Newsletters
- Screensavers...



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Has this research changed practice?

NO!!!



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What is needed?

Move from research and evaluation into changing clinical practice

- Quality Improvement
- Mandate from health care system
- Accountability to health care system
 - Regular review
 - Consequences of failure and success



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Quality Improvement

- an organised, multifaceted approach
 - includes teams from multiple healthcare sites
 - coming together to learn, apply and share improvement methods, ideas and data
- on service performance for a given healthcare topic.

*Wells S, et al. BMJ Qual Saf 2018;27:226–240.
doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2017-006926*



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Quality Improvement

- Teams are supported by faculty of experts
- Between meetings:
 - Teams are provided with coaching
 - Tasked to apply quality improvement methods, (such as Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles)
- Teams learn faster and are more effective when **collaborating** and **benchmarking** with other teams

*Wells S, et al. BMJ Qual Saf 2018;27:226–240.
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Quality Improvement

- An improvement was reported in 83% of the studies (32/39) included in a systematic review
- Collaboratives reporting success generally:
 - addressed relatively straightforward aspects of care,
 - had a strong evidence base
 - noted a clear evidence-practice gap in an accepted clinical pathway or guideline.

*Wells S, et al. BMJ Qual Saf 2018;27:226–240.
doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2017-006926*



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Mandate from Health Care System

- Provide resources
- Demonstrate importance
- What do we stop doing to make room for this?
- Hospital
 - Departments
- Region
 - Facilities
- Country
 - Regions
 - Comparable facilities



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Accountability

If you don't check it, it doesn't get done

- Who goes to jail if it doesn't happen?
- Who gets a prize if it does happen?
- Not the same as Responsibility
 - Who does the work?
- Accountability and Responsibility need to be described



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Conclusion

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} Quality Improvement



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