

## Sytron Information for parents and carers of premature babies

This leaflet is about the use of Sytron (which may also be called sodium feredetate) for the prevention of anaemia.

The leaflet has been written specifically about the use of this medicine in premature babies and may differ from that provided by the manufacturer.

<b>Name of drug: Sodium Feredetate</b> <b>Brand name: Sytron</b>
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### **Why is it important for my baby to take this medicine?**

If the body has too little iron, it cannot make enough haemoglobin, a protein it needs to carry oxygen in the blood. Having too little haemoglobin is called anaemia. Usually we get enough iron from our diet to keep us healthy.

Premature babies do not get enough iron in their diet and are at risk of getting anaemia. This could affect their growth and development. By giving Sytron, which contains lots of iron, we can prevent anaemia developing.

### **What is Sytron available as?**

Sytron is a liquid medicine and contains 27.5mg of iron in 5ml.

### **When should I give Sytron?**

Sytron is usually given once a day and may be given at a time that suits you. Give the medicine at about the same time each day so that this becomes part of your baby's routine care.

### **How much should I give?**

Sytron is given to babies born at less than 37 weeks who are breastfed or on term or specialist formulas.

While your baby is **less than** 1.5kg you should give 0.5ml once a day.

When your baby weighs **more than** 1.5kg you should give 1ml once a day.

### **How should I give it?**

You will be supplied with Sytron when your baby is discharged from hospital.

Measure the right amount into a specially designed oral syringe (this will be supplied by the hospital when you go home).

Iron supplements are thought to be better absorbed if given before or between feeds rather than after feeds, but from a practical point of view can be mixed with feeds.

If your baby will not take the medicine you should contact the neonatal outreach nurses for advice (01603 286838, leave a message on the voicemail and somebody will aim to get back to you within 24 hours).

### **How long will I need to give Sytron for?**

Sytron should be started 28 days after your baby was born.

If you are breast feeding you should continue to give Sytron until your baby is 1 year from their due date. If you are feeding with a term or specialist formula you should continue to give Sytron until your baby is 6 months from their due date.

### **When should the medicine start working?**

The medicine will be working straight away but you will not see any difference in your baby because the medicine is being given to prevent anaemia from developing.

### **What if my baby is sick (vomits)?**

Wait until the next dose and then give the normal dose.

DO NOT give double the dose.

### **What if I forget to give it?**

Wait until the next dose and then give the normal dose.

DO NOT give double the dose.

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

It may be dangerous to give too much Sytron.

Never give your child more than the doctor has advised.

If you think you may have given too much Sytron, contact your GP or NHS 111.

### **Are there any possible side effects?**

Your baby's poo may look darker than usual, this is nothing to worry about.

### **Can other medicines be given at the same time as Sytron?**

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your baby. This includes herbal and complimentary medicines. Once your baby is old enough they can have medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen if necessary.

### **Where should I keep this medicine?**

Keep the medicine in a cupboard away from heat and direct sunlight.

Make sure children cannot see or reach the medicine.

### **General Advice**

- Try to give medicines at around the same time each day.
- Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Order a new prescription from your GP at least 2 weeks before you will next run out.
- Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the 'best before' or 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of
- Keep the medicine in the container that it was provided in.

### **Who to contact for more information**

Your doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about Sytron.