

Switching to Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg Powder

Information for patients



Why is my medication changing?

There is currently a shortage of **Hydrocortisone Sodium Phosphate 100mg/ml ampoules** with stock potentially being unavailable until March 2023, however at present it is unclear if this time frame will be extended.

The alternative formulation is **Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg powder (Solu-Cortef)** vials, which require the powder to be dissolved in water before giving and are currently available for patients leading to different advice being needed for the safe administration.

You will be provided with a video link which will provide education on how to prepare **Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg powder (Solu-Cortef)** for injection.

Please read the following information carefully

Guide to dissolving, drawing up, and injecting Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg powder (Solu-Cortef)

You will be provided with information on how to dissolve powder Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mgs (Solu-Cortef) with 2mls water for injection. This should include all the necessary steps that you need to do this correctly and safely.

You should be given the following information and follow the steps below for preparation of the powder form of Hydrocortisone 100mgs

- You will be given a vial of Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg powder (Solu-Cortef) and a vial of water for injection
- Before you give yourself the injection, watch the following video by the 'Addison's Disease Self Help Group'. This will show you the process for drawing up water for injection and mixing it with the powder form of Hydrocortisone 100mgs.

The video link is as follows:

(Or you can scan the QR code with your smart phone camera)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRGbVG3asso&list=PL58H0D1LpwGpqCwx2-xhQ12gdfHEDpSgX&index=7



(Or go to www.youtube.com and search “3.4 Solu-Cortef standard syringe emergency injection”)

This video by the Addison’s Disease Self Help Group concentrates on Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg powder (Solu-Cortef) preparation, drawing up and injection using a standard syringe. Please use the needle and syringe you have been trained with at your Emergency Hydrocortisone Education Session.

After watching the video, it is important to read the additional information below:

- Draw up 2mls of water for injection using a 2mls syringe
- Inject the 2mls of water for injection into the vial of powder Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mgs
- Then gently mix the vial containing the powder form of Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mgs and water for injection, mixing until the preparation runs clear
- Draw up the full contents of the vial (at least 2mls) and inject the full quantity contained in the syringe
- Please note that the video states to add between 1-2mls of water to the vial of Hydrocortisone – we advise adding 2mls of water each time a vial is used

It is important that you draw up and inject the full contents of the vial to give the following dose:

- Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mgs in 2mls water for injection

Failure to do so could potentially lead to an incorrect dose being given and could be life threatening.

Available forms of Hydrocortisone 100mg injection

You will need to recognise the differences between the two forms of Hydrocortisone 100mgs:

- Hydrocortisone Sodium Phosphate 100mg/1ml ampoules (Liquid) – Currently unavailable
- Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg powder (Solu-Cortef). Remember to add 2mls of water to this preparation before drawing up and injecting the full contents of the vial to give Hydrocortisone 100mgs in 2mls of water.

Different brands of powder Hydrocortisone 100mgs

You should also be aware that there are different brands of powder Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mgs:

Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mg powder vials (Solu-Cortef)

and

Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mgs, powder for solution for injection/infusion (non- branded generic version, **not** called Solu-Cortef)

The directions for using the non- branded version are the same to be followed as when using Solu-Cortef – add 2mls of water for injection to the vial, mix well until the powder is dissolved and draw up and inject the full contents of the vial. This provides the same dose of Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate 100mgs/2mls water for injection.

Safety needle and syringe

The video will show the use of a different style of safety needle and syringe. It is important that you **continue to use the safety needle and syringe you have been trained to use** during your Emergency Hydrocortisone Education Sessions.

If further supplies are needed, please contact the Metabolic Unit at the Western General Hospital (contact telephone number below).

After watching the video if you need any further education, you should contact the Endocrine Nurses at the Metabolic Unit, Western General Hospital to arrange an appointment for further training.

Telephone number: **0131 537 2473**

Resource

- Addison's Disease Self Help Group: www.addisonsdisease.org.uk

