

## Dexamethasone Prescribing and Administration Guidance

### **Express dexamethasone injection as dexamethasone base (3.3mg/ml)**

This is equivalent to dexamethasone phosphate salt (4mg/ml) or a 4mg dexamethasone oral tablet

Dexamethasone injections must be prescribed as **dexamethasone base**, with the concentration shown (e.g., 3.3 mg/ml)

Always include the **concentration or volume** to ensure the correct dose is given

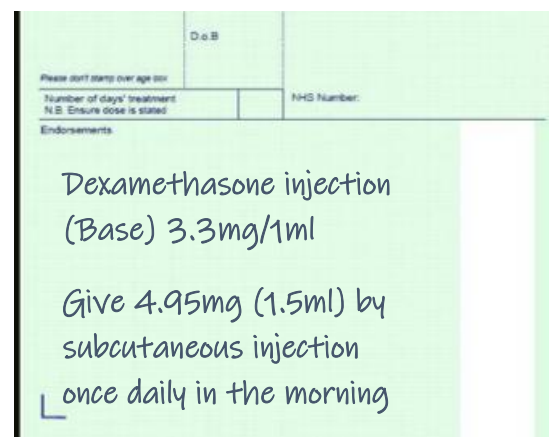
Prescriptions written simply as “dexamethasone 4 mg” are ambiguous and can lead to errors

Writing PO/IV/SC is not appropriate as doses are not equivalent

If the prescription does not clearly state dexamethasone base and the required volume, **do not administer**. Ask for clarification from the prescriber or medicines management team.

Indication commonly being treated	Oral Dose prescribed as <b>Dexamethasone tablets</b>	Dose & Volume of Injection when prescribed as <b>Dexamethasone (Base) 3.3mg/ml</b>
Site reactions	-	0.8mg = 0.25ml
Appetite/fatigue	2mg	1.65mg = 0.5ml
Nausea/vomiting	4mg	3.3mg = 1ml
Bowel obstruction	6mg	4.95mg = 1.5ml
Brain metastases	8mg	6.6mg = 2ml
Malignant spinal cord compression	16mg	13.2mg = 4ml

DRUG			Dose	Date
Indication	Frequency	Max in 24hrs		Time
Dexamethasone Base			4.95mg (1.5ml)	Dose
Bowel Obstruction	Once daily (am)			Given by
			Subcut	Batch No.



D o B: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please don't stamp over age box  
 Number of days' treatment (N.B. Ensure dose is stated) \_\_\_\_\_ NHS Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Endorsements  
 Dexamethasone injection (Base) 3.3mg/1ml  
 Give 4.95mg (1.5ml) by subcutaneous injection once daily in the morning