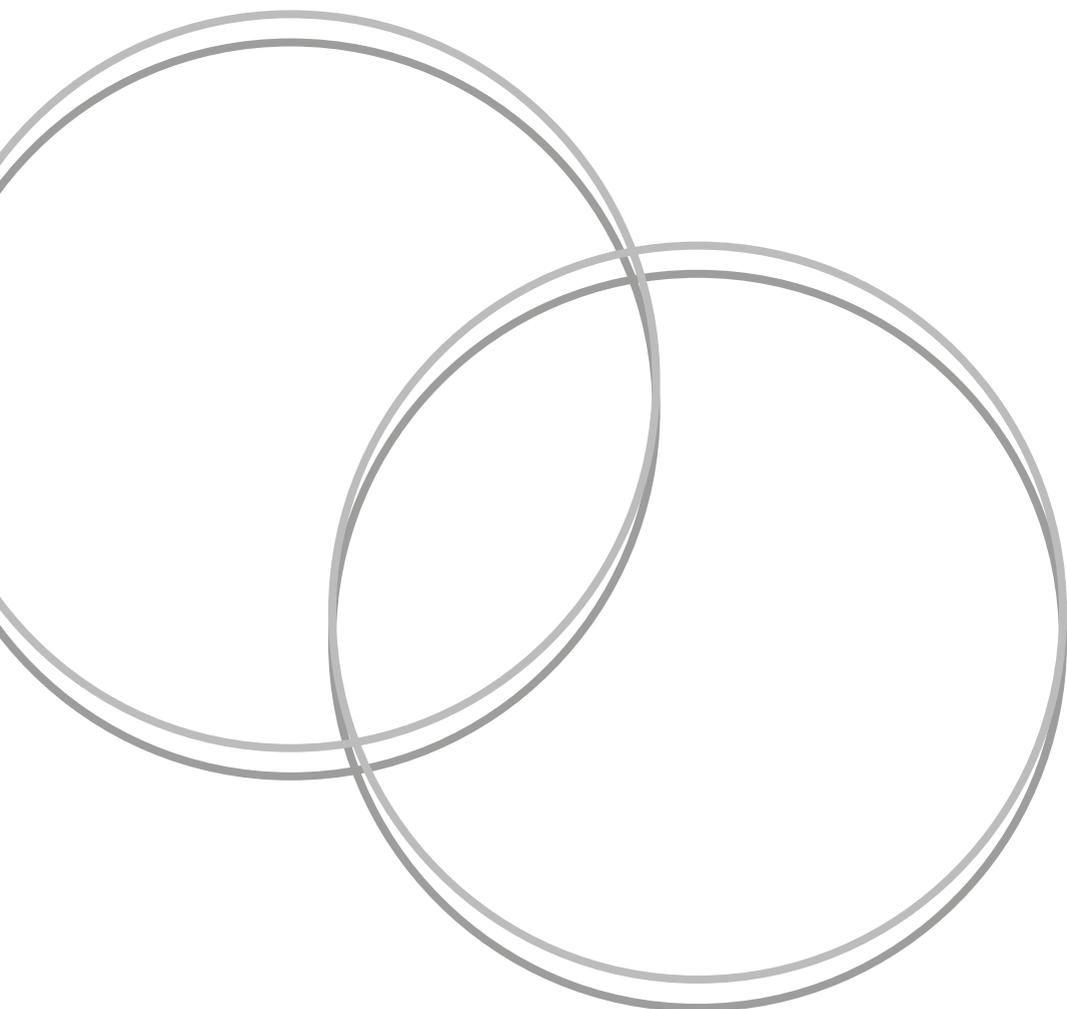




Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Furosemide

**Information for parents  
and carers**



## **What is furosemide?**

Furosemide is from a group of drugs called diuretics. It is used for children with heart problems, to stop fluid building up in the body, helping the heart to work more easily.

## **How does furosemide work?**

Furosemide is a fast acting diuretic. It helps the body to remove excess water, by increasing the amount of urine produced.

## **How should it be taken?**

It is important that furosemide is taken regularly, as prescribed. This may be once, twice or three times a day.

**For older children it is better to give it a few hours before bedtime, so they don't have to get up to use the toilet during the night (or risk wetting the bed).**

Furosemide is often used with spironolactone (we will give you a leaflet about this medication).

The standard strength of furosemide we use is 50mgs in 5mls. It comes as a liquid and is given using an oral syringe. Furosemide also comes as either 20mg or 40mg tablets, if preferred.

**Your chemist may stock different strength liquids. Please check each new prescription and the medication from the chemist. If you are unsure of the dose to give, speak to your chemist or call your child's Cardiac Nurse Specialist.**

## **What side effects may occur?**

Side effects are rare, but furosemide can make your child feel slightly sick.

Sodium and potassium levels in your child's blood will be checked while they are taking this medication, as these can be affected by furosemide. They may be checked again at future appointments or if the dose changes.

**Further prescriptions will need to be provided by your child's GP.**

**This medicine should not be stopped without advice from a doctor.**

## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



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