

**Proposal for change  
WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, 16<sup>th</sup> List, March 2009**

At this moment the dosages that are mentioned in the WHO Model list of EM, are unclear. As they indicate what the therapeutic dosage is and not which tablet strengths are seen as essential medicines. In the table shown below, there is given an overview of the dosage forms on the Model list that need such a clarification. A number of sources are used to give an indication of the available dosages for each molecule.

Medicines	Dosage stated EML 2007	Section	MSH	BNF
acetylsalicylic acid	suppository: 100-150mg tablet: 100-500mg (analgesic) tablet: 300-500mg (migraine attack)	2.1/7	tablet: 75mg, 100mg, 300mg, 500mg	suppository: 150mg tablet: 75mg, 300mg
paracetamol	tablet: 100-500mg	2.1/7	tablet: 100mg, 500mg	tablet: 500mg, 120mg
phenobarbital	tablet: 15-100mg	5	tablet: 15mg, 30mg, 100mg, 50-60mg	tablet: 15mg, 30mg, 60mg
metronidazol	tablet: 200-500mg	6.2.2/6.5.1	tablet: 200-250mg, 400-500mg	tablet: 200mg, 400mg, 500mg
ethambutol	tablet: 100-400mg	6.2.4	tablet: 100mg, 400mg	tablet: 100mg, 400mg
isoniazide	tablet: 100-300mg tablet(scored): 50mg	6.2.4	tablet: 100mg, 300mg	tablet: 50mg, 100mg

**Unsure:** for these dosages it is maybe better to put down a therapeutic dosage, because injections and oral liquids can be easily adjusted to the dosage that is needed.

Medicines	Dosage states EML 2007	Section	MSH	BNF
phenytoine	oral liquid 25-30mg/5ml	5		
amidotrizoate	Injection, 140-420mg iodine (as sodium or meglumine salt)/ml in 20-ml ampoule	14.2		
iohexol	140-350mg iodine/ml in 5-ml; 10ml; 20ml ampoules	14.2		
meglumine iotroxate	5-8 g iodine in 100-250ml	14.2		

**Abbreviations:**

**MSH:** Management Sciences for Health, Drug Price Indicator Guide, website visited at 10-02-2009:  
(<http://erc.msh.org/mainpage.cfm?file=1.0.htm&module=Dmp&language=English>)

**BNF:** British National Formulary, 51, March 2006