

March 2012

**Re: Citalopram (Cipramil®) Oral Drops 40mg/ml**

There has been some confusion regarding the prescribing, the dispensing and the administration of citalopram drops. In an effort to minimise this, please be familiar with the following advice.

Doses of the oral drops cannot accurately be prescribed by volume of the liquid. The Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for Cipramil® Oral Drops 40mg/ml states that this is because 44.48 mg *citalopram hydrochloride* (drops)  $\equiv$  40 mg citalopram base **but** 49.96 mg *citalopram hydrobromide* (tablets)  $\equiv$  40 mg citalopram base

Therefore, citalopram (Cipramil®) oral drops have approximately 25% increased bioavailability compared to the tablet formulation.

Please be clear as to which formulation is prescribed and whether a change of formulation has occurred since the original choice of prescription, and hence dose, was written – the actual dose may need amending (see table below) to maintain citalopram plasma levels.

Dose of citalopram in tablet form	Equivalent dose of citalopram in drop form	Number of drops required to deliver the required dose
10mg	8mg	(4 drops)
20 mg	16 mg	(8 drops)
30 mg	24 mg	(12 drops)
40 mg	32 mg	(16 drops)