

HOMELY REMEDY PROTOCOL – PIRITON (Chlorphenamine Maleate)
Protocol for the administration of Piriton to pupils/staff at Woodbridge School
(WS) by Day, Boarding and Relief Matrons

(1) Clinical condition or situation

Definition of clinical situation	Management of allergic symptoms caused by hay fever urticaria and other allergies as assessed by designated Matrons using clinical judgement, for pupils/staff at Woodbridge School (WS).
Pupils/staff included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay fever • Nettle rash and hives • Skin allergies and dermatitis • Prickly heat and heat rash • Reactions to food, additives or medicines • Insect bites and stings • Itchy rash of chickenpox
Pupils/staff excluded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piriton administered within last 4 hours • Pupils/staff who have had 6 or more doses within last 24 hours • Has taken a 'one a day' type of anti-histamine within last 24 hours • Has taken monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) for depression within the last 14 days • Other medication (Check first for compatibility with piriton) <p>Should seek medical advice before administration if there is a history of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epilepsy • Glaucoma • Hyperthyroidism • Hypertension • Heart, liver, kidney or lung disease • Enlarged prostate • Pregnancy • Taking medication for anxiety or insomnia
Action for pupils excluded	8.30 – 5.00 - Contact parents/legal guardian (LG), School Doctor, own GP
Action if pupil declines	As for pupil excluded

(2) Staff competencies

Authorised staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Nurse – Level 1 • Designated WS Matron – Day School, Boarding or Relief
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory completion of Homely Remedy Protocol Questionnaire • Competence assessed by Registered Nurse/School Doctor • To be aware of medicines available that contain Piriton (chlorphenamine maleate) • To be aware of other common antihistamines

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(3) Description of treatment

Medicines to be administered	<p>Name: Piriton (chlorphenamine maleate) 4mg tablet, Syrup 2mg/5ml Legal status: Tablets and Syrup Storage: Locked medicine cabinet</p>
Specific administration	<p>Single dose: Child over 12 yrs/adult = 1 x 4mg tablet Children 6 -12 yrs = ½ tablet or 5ml syrup (2mg) Route of administration: Oral - tablet or syrup Frequency: Adult/child over 12yrs = 4mg (1 tablet) Children 6 – 12 yrs = 2mg (1/2 tablet/5ml syrup) every 4 – 6 hrs with no more than 6 doses in 24 hrs Maximum single dose: 4mg ; 2mg if 6 – 12 yrs Maximum dose in 24 hours: 6 doses up to a maximum of 24mg for adults/over 12yrs or 12mg for children aged 6 – 12 yrs</p>
Common Side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowsiness • Headache • Gastro-intestinal disturbance • Blurred vision <p>(For full list see British National Formulary (BNF))</p>
Follow up treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and review child • If symptoms persist inform parents • Verbal consent Parental/LG must be obtained before a second dose can be given 4 – 6 hours later (exception Boarding Matron) • Medical advice should be sought from School Doctor/Registered Nurse if symptoms persist or deteriorate and parents/LG informed
Pupil/staff advice	<p>Inform pupil/staff of medication being administered under homely remedy policy. Under 16's: Give letter to take home to parents/LG advising of dose/date/time of piriton Over 16's: Advise when next dose can be taken and remind that only 6 doses can be taken in a 24-hour period. If not competent then send letter home</p>
Consent	<p>Piriton will only be administered to pupils in the presence of a written and signed consent form from parents or legal guardians permitting the administration of antihistamine/piriton to their child.</p>
Record keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record in Matron's Day Log/ Staff Log • Update pupils medical record • Complete & issue letter to under16's

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(4) Quick checklists

Pre-administration

- Check identity and age of the pupil
- Check condition appropriate to be treated with piriton
- Check consent form dated & signed by parent or legal guardian
- Check for medical conditions and allergies (no liver or kidney disease)
- Check if other antihistamine has been taken in last 24 hours
- Check how much piriton has been taken in the last 24 hours clarify with parent or guardian if in any doubt
- Check if the pupil is taking any other medication, and confirm that it is compatible with piriton and does not contain piriton
- Before dispensing, check drug name, dose and expiry date

Post Administration

- Record details in Day Matron's Log , Sign and date. Update pupil's medical record
- Under 16's - Letter issued for pupil take home to parent/legal guardian advising of dose/date/time of piriton
- Over 16's – Advise when next dose can be taken and remind only 6 doses can be taken in any 24-hour period. If not competent then letter to be sent home

Follow-up Dose (All age groups)

- May be required 4 – 6 hours later if symptoms persist
- Contact parent/guardian by phone, if this is unsuccessful and second dose needed contact Senior School Matron or School Doctor

(5) Drug Errors

Action	<p>Drug error: Contact School Doctor/A&E for advice. Overdose: Remove to A&E Department urgently *Inform Parents/LG/Headmaster & record in Day Log/ file*</p>
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References	Medical Officer of Schools Association (2007) British National Formulary (September 2007)