**Change to prescribed medicines for a child or young person - Information for parents and carers:**

Name …………………………………………………………….…………………………….

Date of birth …………………………………………………………….……………….….…

NHS number ………………………………………………………………………….………

New medicine (include formulation and strength)

…………………………………………………………………….…………………………….

Previous medicine (include formulation and strength):

…………………………………………………………………….…………………………….

Date change initiated ………………………………………………………….……….….…

**Why have you received this letter?**

You have been given this letter as a change has been made to your child’s medicine(s) after a consultation with your GP. The change will involve one or more of the following:

* A change in the **strength** of the medicine. Strengths refers to the amount of medicine in the dose unit. For example, paracetamol oral liquid is available in 2 different strengths: 120mg per 5mL and 250mg per 5mL
* A change in the **formulation** of the medicine. Formulation refers to the presentation of the medicine. Examples of medicine formulations include oral liquids, dissolvable tablets, capsules, creams, ointments and eye drops.
* A change to an **equivalent medicine** that appears different to what your child has had before. This might be a different active ingredient, name, packaging, and/or appearance. This change is more common with creams and ointments used to treat skin conditions.

**Why is your child’s medicine being changed?**

Your child’s medicine is being changed to make sure that it is the safest and most appropriate for them. The decision on which medicine strength and/or formulation this is, is made by GPs, specialist doctors, nurses and pharmacists involved in caring for children across South East London.

These changes are being recommended across all boroughs of South East London. This means that wherever a child lives, and wherever they get their medicines from, they will receive the same strength and formulation. This is the one that is safest and most appropriate for them.

**How to give the new medicine**

The new medicine will be clearly labelled with how much to give (the dose) and how many times a day to give it (the frequency).

Your GP or community pharmacist will give you the information on how to give the new medicine to your child. If you are unsure please contact your GP or community pharmacist for advice.

**What to do if your child won’t take the new medicine**

We appreciate that change can sometimes be worrying for children, young people and their families. If your child is reluctant to take a different strength or formulation of medicine, please contact your community pharmacist for advice.

**What to do if your child gets a side effect(s) from the new medicine?**

It is rare, but side effects might happen after a change in strength or formulation of medicine. Most side effects from medicines are mild and are likely to resolve quickly.

Occasionally, more serious or prolonged side effects might happen. Information about what to do if your child gets side effects from their medicines can be found here, [http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/advice-guides/general-advice-for-medicines/side-effects-from-childrens-medicines/](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/advice-guides/general-advice-for-medicines/side-effects-from-childrens-medicines/%20)

**Who to contact if you have further questions**

If you have questions about this specific change to your child’s medicine(s), please contact your GP or community pharmacist.

If you have any general queries relating to your child’s medicine(s), please contact your community pharmacist.

The Medicines for Children website has information available on a range of medicines and medicine-related topics, including how to help your child swallow tablets, and information on unlicensed medicines. Please visit <https://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/> for more information.

**From (doctor/pharmacist name)** …………………………………………………………