



**NATIONWIDE  
CHILDREN'S**

*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™*

**Helping Hand™**

## **Erythromycin Ethylsuccinate for GI Motility (E.E.S.®)**

Erythromycin ethylsuccinate (ee rith roe MYE cin eth ul SUX in ate) is the generic name for E.E.S.®

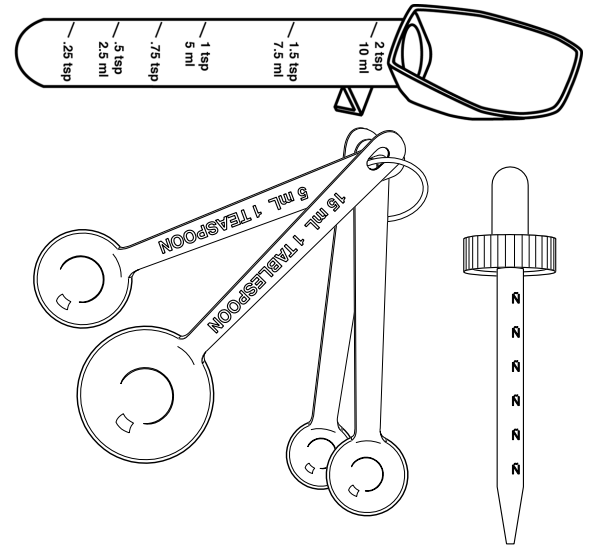
This medicine is an antibiotic to treat infection. In small doses, it increases the forward movement of the stomach and intestines so your child does not vomit or reflux. If you think your child has an infection, he or she may need another medicine. Call your child's doctor to set up an appointment.

### **How to Give this Medicine**

- **Shake this medicine** before using it.
- Use a pediatric measuring device (available at the pharmacy) or a measuring spoon to measure the exact dose (Picture 1). Do not measure liquid medicines in kitchen spoons.
- Read the label carefully and make sure you are giving your child the right dose. It is easy to confuse the many different dosage forms and strengths.
- Give the **exact dose** of medicine that your doctor ordered.
- Stay with your child until he or she has swallowed the dose of medicine.
- This medicine should be given **before** meals.
- It is very important to give the medicine **every day** as ordered, even if your child is feeling better. Do not change doses or stop the medicine without talking to your child's doctor.

### **Warning**

If your child is allergic to erythromycin, azithromycin (Zithromax®), or clarithromycin (Biaxin®), he or she should not take this medicine.



**Picture 1** Be sure to measure the exact dose.

## If You Forget to Give a Dose

If you forget to give a dose of this medicine, but remember within about an hour, give it right away. Then go back to your regular dosing schedule. If you do not remember until later, do not give the missed dose at all and do not double the next one. Instead, go back to your regular dosing schedule. If you have any questions about this, check with your child's doctor or pharmacist.

## If a Dose Is Vomited

If the medicine is vomited (thrown up) right after you give it, do not repeat the dose. If the vomiting continues, call your child's doctor.

## Medicine Storage

- **Store all medicine out of the reach of children.**
- Always keep medicine in the original bottle from the pharmacy.
- Keep this medicine in the refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Keep this medicine away from heat or direct sunlight.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiration date printed on the container.

## Drug – Nutrient Interactions

- Erythromycin may decrease the body's ability to remove some other medicines from the body. These medicines include anti-seizure medicines, like Tegretol<sup>®</sup>, phenytoin (Dilantin<sup>®</sup>), and certain heart medicines, like warfarin (Coumadin<sup>®</sup>) and digoxin. Always tell all of the doctors, pharmacists, or dentists treating your child about all medicines your child is taking.
- Do not give over-the-counter medicines (such as acetaminophen, aspirin, antacids, or cold medicines) without checking with your child's doctor or pharmacist first.
- If your child is taking any other medicine or herbal supplements, tell your doctor and pharmacist. Certain medicines should not be taken with E.E.S.

## Special Note for Female Patients

- If a patient thinks she might be pregnant, she should tell the doctor **before** she begins taking this or any medicine. This medicine may cause problems if taken during pregnancy.
- If a patient is breast-feeding her baby, she should tell her doctor before she begins taking this or any medicine. This medicine can pass into breast milk and cause side effects in the baby.

## Possible Side Effects

- Nausea, diarrhea, or throwing up (vomiting)
- Jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)
- Skin rash
- Dark (tea-colored) urine

## What to Do about Side Effects

- If a skin rash or jaundice happens, **stop giving the medicine and call your child's doctor.**
- If nausea, diarrhea, or spitting up happens, you can give E.E.S. with food.

## When to Call for Emergency Help

Call for emergency help if your child has any of these signs of an allergic reaction: trouble breathing, swelling of the tongue, swelling of hands, feet or ankles.

## When to Call the Doctor

Call your child's doctor if your child has:

- Projectile vomiting - vomiting that is sudden, usually without nausea, and so strong the vomit is forced out to a distance
- Severe diarrhea that is bloody, is happening 4 or 5 times a day, or is not better within 24 hours
- Dark urine (the color of tea)
- Light colored stools
- Increased sleepiness
- Weakness
- Yellow skin or eyes
- Your child is having any side effects that continue or are very bothersome.
- Your child's condition has not gotten better within 7 days.

## Other Advice About the Medicine

- Tell your child's doctor and pharmacist if your child has a strange or allergic reaction to any medicine.
- If you carry medicine in your purse, keep it in its childproof bottle. Keep your purse out of the reach of children.

*Continued on page 4*

**Other Advice About the Medicine, continued**

- Bring all your child's medicines with you **in the original bottles** whenever your child sees a doctor, goes to an emergency room or is admitted to the hospital. This helps doctors who may not know your child.
- Learn the name, spelling and dose of this medicine. Also, teach your child if he is old enough. You will need to know this information when you call the doctor or pharmacist.
- **If your child takes too much of this medicine, or if someone else takes this medicine, first call the Central Ohio Poison Center** at 1-800-222-1222 (TTY 614-228-2272). They will tell you what to do.
- Do not stop giving this medicine or change the amount given without first talking with your child's doctor or pharmacist. Your child may reflux again or have more side effects.
- The doctor has prescribed this medicine for your child **only**. Don't give it to anyone else.
- Ask your pharmacist for 2 labeled bottles if your childcare provider will be giving this medicine.
- Get this prescription refilled at least **3 days before** the last dose is given. This is very important.
- Some pharmacies may not have this medicine. Ask your nurse to call your pharmacy before you leave the hospital to see if they have this medicine or can order it for you. You may also have the prescription filled at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Pharmacy.
- If your child has trouble taking medicine, ask your nurse for the Helping Hand, *Medications: How to Give by Mouth*, HH-IV-28.
- Tell your child's teacher, school nurse, coach, babysitter and others that your child is taking this medicine and what side effects to watch for.
- Your child's school will need a note from you and from the doctor if the medicine is to be given at school by the school nurse.
- When your child goes to the dentist, be sure to tell the dentist your child is taking this medicine and why.
- When the medicine is no longer needed, mix the leftover medicine with an unwanted material, like coffee grounds. Put the mixture into a container or a bag that will not leak. Throw the container away in the trash where children and pets cannot reach it.

