REMEMBER ABOUT PAEDIATRIC AMOXICILLIN DOSES

In recent years there have been concerns that children may be receiving inadequate doses of penicillin antibiotics. A study published in the British Journal of General Practice concluded that a significant proportion of community penicillin prescriptions for children are at potentially subtherapeutic doses\(^1\).

In line with guidance from the HPA, the dose of amoxicillin recommended in the BNF and BNFC has recently been doubled to ensure that all children receive an adequate dose.

**Please note** this has only taken effect with printed copies BNF edition 68 and BNFC edition July 2014-July 2015. The online BNF and BNFC list higher doses of oral amoxicillin for children in line with Health Protection Agency (HPA) guidance.

The current recommended doses are:

- **Child 1 month to 1 year:** 125mg three times daily, increased if necessary up to 30mg/kg three times daily.
- **Child 1-5 years:** 250mg three times daily, increased if necessary up to 30mg/kg three times daily.
- **Child 5-12 years:** 500mg three times daily, increased if necessary up to 30mg/kg (max 1g) three times daily.
- **Child 12-18 years:** 500mg three times daily; in severe infection 1g three times daily.

The standard dose of oral amoxicillin for adults was increased to 500mg three times daily (doubled in severe infection) in September 2013 and is reflected in the printed and online editions of the BNF.