

Neither the PaedF working party nor the EDQM make any recommendation to use the below listed drugs for experimental treatment of COVID-19. Available knowledge is limited. The prescriber remains responsible to make an individual assessment of risks and benefits for each patient. Although great care has been taken in compiling and checking the information contained in this table, neither the PaedF working party nor the EDQM is liable for any mistakes, incompleteness or inaccuracies.

Product	Strength†	How to Formulate	Excipients‡	Comments
Dexamethasone				
Expert opinion for extemporaneous preparation: dexamethasone is a highly soluble drug (BCS class I (Plöger GF, Hofsäss MA, Dressman JB. J Pharm Sci 2018;107(6):1478-88)). A number of oral solutions are marketed in selected countries. Available authorised tablet formulations are uncoated and may be crushed and used in case none of the licensed products or pure active substance would be available. It is expected that manipulation of the formulation will have a minimal impact on bioavailability. Safety precautions: when manipulating tablets, it is advised to take adequate measures to prevent inhalation and dermal exposure of the potentially harmful active substance.				
Oral solution				
Infectodexakrupp 2 mg/5 mL (Infectopharm, AT, DE)	Each 5 mL contains 2 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone dihydrogen phosphate disodium), 450 mg propylene glycol, 1375 mg liquid maltitol and 700 mg liquid sorbitol	---	Spearmint flavour (containing safrol) Maltitol solution Benzoic acid Purified water Sodium citrate Citric acid monohydrate Propylene glycol Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising)	
Dexsol 2 mg/5 mL Oral Solution (Rosemont, IE, SE, UK)	Each 5 mL contains 2 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate), 450 mg propylene glycol, Garden mint flavour (containing 0.61 mg propylene glycol), 1375 mg liquid maltitol and 700 mg liquid sorbitol	---	Benzoic acid Propylene glycol Citric acid monohydrate Liquid maltitol Garden mint flavour (containing isopropanol and propylene glycol) Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Sodium citrate Purified water	
Dexamethasone 2 mg/5 mL Oral solution (Focus, SE, UK)	Each 5 mL contains 2 mg of dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate), 450 mg propylene glycol, 1375 mg liquid maltitol, 700 mg liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) and 5 mg benzoic acid	---	Benzoic acid Propylene glycol Citric acid monohydrate Liquid maltitol Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Sodium citrate dihydrate Mint flavour Purified water	

Product	Strength†	How to Formulate	Excipients‡	Comments
Oral solution (continued)				
Martapan 2 mg/5 mL Oral solution (Martindale, UK)	Each 5 mL contains 2 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate), 0.061 mmol of sodium, 0.6 g of liquid sorbitol, 1.4 g of liquid maltitol, 0.5 g of propylene glycol and 0.005 g of benzoic acid	---	Benzoic acid Propylene glycol Citric acid monohydrate Liquid maltitol Garden mint flavour (contains propylene glycol) Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Sodium citrate Purified water Citric acid	
Dexamethasone 2 mg/5 mL Oral solution (Syri, UK)	Each 5 mL contains 2 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate), 182.2 mg propylene glycol, 1375 mg liquid maltitol, 3 mg benzoic acid and 700 mg liquid sorbitol	---	Propylene glycol Benzoic acid Citric acid monohydrate Sodium citrate Liquid maltitol Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Garden mint flavour (containing propylene glycol) Purified water	
Dexamethasone 2 mg/5 mL Oral solution (Wockhardt, UK)	Each 5 mL contains 2 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium Phosphate), 1.75 g maltitol, 500 mg sorbitol, 470 mg propylene glycol and approx 7.6 mg ethanol	---	Benzoic acid Propylene glycol Citric acid monohydrate Sodium citrate Maltitol liquid Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Garden mint flavour Ethanol Hydrochloric acid Sodium hydroxide Purified water	
Dexamethasone 10 mg/5 mL Oral solution (Rosemont, IE, SE, UK)	Each 5 mL contains 10 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate), 1375 mg liquid maltitol and 700 mg sorbitol liquid (non-crystallising)	---	Propylene glycol Benzoic acid Citric acid monohydrate Sodium citrate Liquid maltitol Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Purified water	

Product	Strength†	How to Formulate	Excipients‡	Comments
Oral solution (continued)				
Dexamethasone 10 mg/5 mL and 20 mg/5 mL Oral solution (Synchrony, UK)	Each 5 mL contains 10 mg / 20 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate), 1375 mg / 1375 mg liquid maltitol and 700 mg / 700 mg sorbitol	---	Propylene glycol Liquid maltitol Mint flavour Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Sodium citrate dihydrate Disodium edetate Sucralose Sodium hydroxide solution 1N Purified water	
Dexliq 4 mg/mL (Laboratoires CTRS, CZ, DK, FR, IS, LU, SK)	Each 5 mL contains 20 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate), 1375 mg liquid maltitol, 490 mg sorbitol, 1.0 mg ethanol and 450 mg of propylene glycol	---	Propylene glycol Liquid maltitol Mint flavour (peppermint, spearmint, menthol, and ethanol) Liquid sorbitol (non-crystallising) Sodium citrate Disodium edetate Sucralose Sodium hydroxide Purified water	
Soldesam 0.2 % Oral drops (Laboratorio Farmacologico Milanese, IT, SE)	Each 5 mL contains 10 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate)	---	Sodium benzoate Propylene glycol Sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate Sodium saccharin Hydroxypropyl betacyclodextrin Sodium edetate Sodium hydroxide Purified water	
Extemporaneous preparation 5 mg/5 mL (FNA monograph)	Each 5 mL contains 5 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone disodium phosphate) and 45.5 mg propylene glycol	Dissolve dexamethasone disodium phosphate and other solid materials in purified water. Mix with the sorbitol solution. Add methyl parahydroxybenzoate solution. Mix with banana essence. Complete to volume with purified water. See reference for detailed instructions.	Methyl parahydroxybenzoate Banana essence Disodium edetate Sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate Disodium phosphate dodecahydrate Propylene glycol Sorbitol solution crystallisable Purified water	Storage: up to 12 months in amber glass bottle below 25 °C, not in fridge or freezer

Product	Strength†	How to Formulate	Excipients‡	Comments
Oral solution (continued)				
Extemporaneous preparation 5 mg/5 mL (Sociedad Española de Farmacia Hospitalaria)	Each 5 mL contains 5 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate)	Dissolve 132 mg of dexamethasone sodium phosphate in 20 mL of preservative water. Dilute to 100 mL with simple syrup with preservative.	Preservative water* Simple syrup with preservative*	Storage: up to 2 months in amber glass bottle in fridge (2-8 °C)
Oral suspension				
Extemporaneous preparation 1 mg/mL (Santoveña-Estévez A, Dorta-Vera D, González-García I, et al. Pharm Technol Hosp Pharm 2018;3(2):59-70)	Each 5 mL contains 5 mg dexamethasone	Dexamethasone mixed with a citric/citrate buffer. Complete to volume with simple syrup. See reference for detailed instructions.	Simple syrup* Citric acid Sodium citrate	Storage: up to 15 days at 5 °C and 25 °C
Extemporaneous preparation 5 mg/mL (Binson G, Venisse N, Bacle A, et al. Pharm Technol Hosp Pharm 2017;2(4):193-201)	Each 5 mL contains 25 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone acetate)	Obtain a thick paste using 664.5 mg of dexamethasone acetate powder (corresponding to 600 mg of dexamethasone base) and 60 mL of OraPlus. Obtain a suspension by mixing, with constant stirring, with 60 mL OraSweet.	OraSweet* OraPlus*	Storage: up to 2 months in amber glass bottle; stable in fridge (2-8 °C) and at room temperature (20-25 °C); no data on microbiological stability
Soluble tablet				
Glensoludex 2 mg, 4 mg and 8 mg Soluble tablets (Glenmark, UK)	Each tablet contains 2 mg / 4 mg / 8 mg dexamethasone (as dexamethasone sodium phosphate) and 14.96 mg / 29.95 mg / 60.5 mg sodium	---	Sodium bicarbonate Disodium citrate 1.5hydrate Povidone K30 Sodium saccharin Sodium benzoate Yellow sunset	
Tablets (selection)				
Dexamethasone 0.5 mg Tablets (Centrafarm, NL)	Each tablet contains 0.5 mg dexamethasone and 103.4 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Lactose monohydrate Maize starch Cellulose Povidone Sodium starch glycolate Magnesium stearate	
Dexamethasone 0.5 mg Tablets (Krka, BG, CZ, DE, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK, UK)	Each tablet contains 0.5 mg dexamethasone and 70 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Lactose monohydrate Pregelatinised maize starch Colloidal anhydrous silica Magnesium stearate	

Product	Strength†	How to Formulate	Excipients‡	Comments
Tablets (selection, continued)				
Fortecortin 0.5 mg and 2 mg Tablets (Merck Serono, DE)	Each tablet contains 0.5 mg / 2 mg dexamethasone and 78.3 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Colloidal anhydrous silica Magnesium stearate Sodium starch glycolate (type C) Sucrose Talc Maize starch Lactose monohydrate	
Dexamethasone 0.5 mg and 1.5 mg Tablets (Mibe, DE)	Each tablet contains 0.5 mg / 1.5 mg dexamethasone and 78.3 mg / 77.4 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Lactose monohydrate Potato starch Talc Sodium starch glycolate (type A) Gelatin Magnesium stearate	
Dexamethasone 0.5 mg, 1.5 mg and 4 mg Tablets (Teva, NL)	Each tablet contains 0.5 mg / 1.5 mg / 4 mg dexamethasone and 95 mg / 157 mg / 250 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Cellulose Sodium starch glycolate Magnesium stearate Lactose monohydrate Maize starch Pregelatinised starch	
Dexamethasone 1 mg and 4 mg Tablets (Abcur, DK, FI)	Each tablet contains 1 mg / 4 mg dexamethasone and 73 mg / 70 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Lactose monohydrate Microcrystalline cellulose Croscarmellose sodium Magnesium stearate	
Dexamethasone 2 mg Tablets (Teva, NL, UK)	Each tablet contains 2 mg dexamethasone and 70 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Lactose monohydrate Maize starch Magnesium stearate	
Dexamethasone 4 mg, 8 mg, 20 mg and 40 mg Tablets (Krka, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, HR, HU, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, RS, SI, SK, UK)	Each tablet contains 4 mg / 8 mg / 20 mg / 40 mg dexamethasone and 70 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Lactose monohydrate Pregelatinised starch Colloidal anhydrous silica Magnesium stearate	
Neofordex 40 mg Tablets (Laboratoires CTRS, DK)	Each tablet contains 40 mg dexamethasone and 98.1 mg lactose (as monohydrate)	---	Lactose monohydrate Microcrystalline cellulose Magnesium stearate Colloidal anhydrous silica	

Product	Strength†	How to Formulate	Excipients‡	Comments
Capsules				
Extemporaneous preparation 10-40 mg (FNA monograph)	Each capsule contains 10-40 mg dexamethasone	---	Primojel*	Cellulose is not used because of potential absorption of dexamethasone (Landín M, Martínez-Pacheco R, Gómez-Amoza JL, Int J Pharm 1993;91:143-9)

BCS=biopharmaceutical classification system

†Information obtained from section 2 of the SmPC for licensed products.

‡Excipients raising concern for children in bold. Information obtained from section 6.1 of the SmPC for licensed products.

*OraSweet: Purified water, sucrose, glycerol, **sorbitol**, citrus-berry flavor, citric acid, sodium phosphate, methylparaben, potassium sorbate

OraPlus: Purified water, microcrystalline cellulose, carmellose, xanthan gum, κ -**carrageenan**, calcium sulfate, trisodium phosphate, citric acid, sodium phosphate, **dimethicone**, methylparaben, potassium sorbate.

Preservative water: Methyl parahydroxybenzoate, **propyl parahydroxybenzoate**, purified water.

Simple syrup: sucrose (65%), purified water

Simple syrup with preservative: Sucrose, methyl parahydroxybenzoate, **propyl parahydroxybenzoate**, purified water.

Primojel: Calcium hydrogenphosphate dihydrate, carboxymethylamylum sodium, colloidal anhydrous silica.