

## FAQ on using ML for Oral Liquid Medications

Q. What is it about?

A. For oral liquid medications, HA will standardize the prescribing and dispensing dosage unit on prescriptions and pharmacy labels from “5ML SPOONFUL(S)” / [標準藥匙] to “ML” / [毫升].

Q. Why is this change necessary?

A. To improve patient’s understanding and ensure medication safety.

Q. What are the examples?

A. The dosing unit printed on dispensing labels for oral liquid medications will be changed as follows:

### Example 1

Before change: “TAKE 1 x 5ML SPOONFUL(S)”

After change: “TAKE <5> ML”

現在: [每次一標準藥匙]

將改爲: [每次<5>毫升]

### Example 2

Before change: “TAKE 1.5 x 5ML SPOONFUL(S)”

After change: “TAKE <7.5> ML”

現在: [每次一又二份一標準藥匙]

將改爲: [每次<7.5>毫升]

Q. Who would be affected?

A. As oral liquid medications are prescribed most often for pediatric and geriatric patients, these two groups of patients would be affected in particular. Doctors, pharmacists, dispensers, nurses and patients’ carers would also be affected when they are prescribing, dispensing and administering the oral liquid medications.

Q. How to announce, educate and explain to our patients or their carers?

- i. hang the attached poster at patient waiting areas, educational notice boards
- ii. coach patients how to measure the required amount of oral liquid medications
- iii. ask patients to demonstrate their understanding on the new instruction
- iv. ensure appropriate measuring device (5ml spoon with 2.5ml marking or oral syringe) is given when oral liquid medications are dispensed to patients or their carers
- v. teach patients how to clean the device if it is to be reused
- vi. distribute the wallet size patient education card to patients or their carers
- vii. play educational VCD at patient waiting areas
- viii. post relevant information to ha internet website [www.ha.org.hk](http://www.ha.org.hk)
- ix. promulgate at radio channel through RTHK
- x. provide news release

Q. When will this change be effective?

A. This change will be effective on 20 Sept 2007.