

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Opening and Mixing Tamiflu® Capsules with Liquids if Child Cannot Swallow Capsules

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Is there a shortage of oral suspension (liquid) Tamiflu®?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the maker of Tamiflu® ([Roche](#)  [Roche](#) ) have said that available supplies of liquid Tamiflu® for children are limited.

What is being done about this?

A pharmacist can make a Tamiflu® suspension (liquid) using available Tamiflu® adult capsules, which are in not in short supply. CDC is alerting pharmacists about this option and providing instructions on how to prepare a suspension using adult capsules. Some pharmacies, including some chains, can do this already, others are not yet prepared. Children's doses of Tamiflu® are also available in capsules.

What can I do if my child cannot swallow capsules?

If your doctor prescribes Tamiflu® capsules for your child and your child cannot swallow capsules, the prescribed capsules may be opened and mixed with a sweet thick liquid and given that way.

What liquids can I use?

A thick and sweet liquid, such as regular or sugar-free chocolate syrup, that masks the flavor of the medicine can be mixed with the contents of the Tamiflu® capsule. Sugar-free sweet liquids are available. The child should consume the liquid mixture entirely.

If my child can't swallow capsules, how do I open Tamiflu capsules and mix the medicine?

Pour a small amount (about a spoonful) of sweet, thick liquid into a cup or bowl. Carefully open the Tamiflu® capsule prescribed by your doctor and pour out all of the powder inside the capsule and mix it into the liquid. The exact amount of liquid used doesn't matter, as long as the powder inside the capsule is mixed in well. (All of the medicine may not dissolve. Just be sure it is all well mixed.) Use only the prescribed dose.

What will I need to do this?

You will need

- The prescribed Tamiflu® capsule
- A small bowl or cup and a spoon
- 1-2 Teaspoons of sweetened liquid

How do I mix the ingredients?

- Pour a small amount (about a spoonful) of a sweet thick liquid into a cup or bowl.
- Holding one capsule over a small bowl, carefully pull the capsule open and pour the complete contents of the capsule into the bowl.
- Stir the mixture and give the entire dose to the child with a spoon.

Should my child take all of the mixture?

Yes, make sure your child takes all of the medicine mixture.