

Technical Bulletin No. 17

RESOMAL – new sachet/carton sizes

Substantial changes have been made to the sachet size for ReSoMal as well as to the carton size.

Background

ReSoMal (oral rehydration salts or ORS for severely malnourished children) is used in in-patient centres for the treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The introduction of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) has allowed the majority of children to be treated at the household level. As a result, in-patient treatment is now recommended only for children with clinical complications in need of medical attention.

ReSoMal contains a mixture of salts and minerals specially designed to correct deficiencies of potassium, magnesium, zinc and copper and to address high levels of sodium in children with SAM. It is supplied as powder in sachets. Previously, one sachet needed to be reconstituted before use by adding 2 litres of boiled water to the content of each sachet, producing thereafter 2 litres of rehydration solution. The reconstituted solution has to be consumed immediately or used within 24 hours if stored in a refrigerator. Now that most of the children with SAM are treated in out-patient centres with RUTF, a quantity of reconstituted ReSoMal was being wasted.

Solution

In order to resolve this problem, discussion was initiated in 2010 between UNICEF Programme Division, Supply Division, Regional Offices, nutritionists working in in-patient centres and suppliers - and concluded that the sachet sizes should be reduced. It was agreed that the optimal volume of the solution should be 1 litre. Hence, it was decided to reduce the sachet sizes by 50 per cent.

New sachets must be reconstituted by adding 1 litre of boiled, cooled water, which will result in 1 litre of liquid ReSoMal.

The carton size has also been adjusted to reflect the smaller number of children treated in the feeding centres. For details see table below.

	ReSoMal	
	Old	New
Sachet size (grams)	84	42
Volume of water to be added (litres)	2	1
Volume of solution produced by 1 sachet (litres)	2	1
Number of sachets per carton	130	100
Net weight of the carton (kilograms)	10.92	4.2
Volume of solution produced by 1 carton (litres)	260	100

The shelf life of ReSoMal has now been extended from 24 months to 36 months, which allows us to more efficiently store the product in the Supply Division warehouse.

Ordering

The new ReSoMal can be ordered from Supply Division by using the following code in VISION:

S1561125 ReSoMal,42g sachet for 1 litre/CAR-100

Product specifications are available in the UNICEF Supply Catalogue accessible here: <https://supply.unicef.org/>. The products can be found under Pharmaceuticals >Water and electrolytes.

The product composition has not been changed.

UNICEF Supply Division has inspected several manufacturing facilities and approved the following source of ReSoMal:

- FDC Ltd. India

For more information, contact:

Rachel Lozano at rlozano@unicef.org,
Nutrition in Emergencies Unit, UNICEF Programme Division

Jan Komrska at jkomrska@unicef.org,
Nutrition Unit, UNICEF Supply Division



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E-mail: supply@unicef.org
www.unicef.org/supply