

Supply issue: Zarontin (ethosuximide) capsules

(Say 'eth-oh-sux-ih-mide')

Zarontin is the brand name of a medicine called ethosuximide that's used to control seizures, mainly in children. Due to some supply issues, Zarontin 250mg capsules won't be available again until early 2023. To make sure you or your child can continue to take this important epilepsy medicine, they have been replaced by a different brand.

What is the temporary replacement for Zarontin?

The new medicine is called **Ethosuximide Essential Generics**. It's made by the same company as Zarontin.

The packaging and capsules look different from Zarontin's. However, it has the same amount of active ingredient and works the same way.



Zarontin
250mg Capsules



Ethosuximide Essential
Generics 250mg Capsules

The new medicine is not Medsafe approved

Although it is approved for use in the UK, it hasn't been through New Zealand's Medsafe approval process. This doesn't mean the medicine is unsafe.

It's important to keep taking ethosuximide

Suddenly stopping epilepsy medicines can cause an increase in seizures. Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will talk with you and answer your questions about this temporary medicine change.



Note

There are additional preservatives in the new medicine. If you have any questions about them talk to your GP, nurse or pharmacist.

 For more information about ethosuximide visit [pharmac.govt.nz/ethosuximide](https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/ethosuximide)