

# Summary of Product Characteristics

## 1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Strepsils Intensive Sugar-Free 8.75 mg Lozenges

## 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

One lozenge contains 8.75 mg of Flurbiprofen

Excipients with known effect:

Isomalt (E953) 2033.29 mg/lozenge

Liquid Maltitol (E965) 509.31 mg/lozenge

Fragrances containing allergens\*

\* in the Orange Flavour

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Lozenge

A round, white to pale yellow lozenge of 19mm diameter with an icon intagliated on both sides of the lozenge.

## 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

Strepsils Intensive lozenges are indicated for the short term symptomatic relief of sore throat in adults and adolescents over the age of 12 years.

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

The lowest effective dose should be administered for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms (see section 4.4).

Adults and adolescents over the age of 12 years:

One lozenge sucked/dissolved slowly in the mouth every 3-6 hours as required. Maximum 5 lozenges in a 24 hour period.

It is recommended that this product should be used for a maximum of three days.

Children: Not indicated for children under 12 years.

Elderly: A general dose recommendation cannot be given, since to date clinical experience is limited. The elderly are at increased risk of the serious consequences of adverse reactions.

Impaired hepatic: In patients with mild to moderate impairment of hepatic function no dose reduction is required. In patients with severe hepatic insufficiency flurbiprofen is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Impaired renal: In patients with mild to moderate impairment of renal function no dose reduction is required. In patients with severe renal insufficiency flurbiprofen is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Method of administration

For oromucosal administration and short-term use only.

As with all lozenges, to avoid local irritation, flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges should be moved around the mouth whilst sucking.

### 4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to flurbiprofen or any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Patients who have previously shown hypersensitivity reactions (e.g. asthma, bronchospasm, rhinitis, angioedema or urticaria) in response to acetylsalicylic acid or other NSAIDs.
- Active, or history of recurrent peptic ulcer/haemorrhage (two or more distinct episodes of proven ulceration) and intestinal ulceration.
- History of gastrointestinal bleeding or perforation, severe colitis, haemorrhagic or haematopoietic disorders related to previous NSAID therapy.
- Last trimester of pregnancy (See section 4.6)
- Severe heart failure, severe renal failure or severe hepatic failure (see section 4.4).

#### 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Undesirable effects may be minimized by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms

##### *Elderly population*

The elderly have an increased frequency of adverse reactions to NSAIDs especially gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation which may be fatal.

##### *Respiratory:*

Bronchospasm may be precipitated in patients suffering from or with a previous history of bronchial asthma or allergic disease. Flurbiprofen lozenges should be used with caution in these patients

##### *Other NSAIDs:*

The use of flurbiprofen lozenges with concomitant NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors should be avoided (see section 4.5).

##### *Systemic lupus erythematosus and mixed connective tissue disease:*

Patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and mixed connective tissue disease may have an increased risk of aseptic meningitis (see section 4.8), however this effect is not usually seen with short term limited use products such as flurbiprofen lozenges.

##### *Cardiovascular, Renal and Hepatic Impairment:*

NSAIDs have been reported to cause nephrotoxicity in various forms including interstitial nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and renal failure. The administration of an NSAID may cause a dose dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and precipitate renal failure. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, cardiac impairment, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics and the elderly, however, this effect is not usually seen with short term, limited use products such as flurbiprofen lozenges.

##### *Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular effects:*

Caution (discussion with doctor or pharmacist) is required prior to starting treatment in patients with a history of hypertension and/or heart failure as fluid retention, hypertension and oedema have been reported in association with NSAID therapy.

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that use of some NSAIDs, (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with a small increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke). There are insufficient data to exclude such a risk for flurbiprofen when given at a daily dose of no more than 5 lozenges.

##### *Hepatic:*

Mild to moderate hepatic dysfunction (see sections 4.3 and 4.8)

##### *Nervous System effects*

Analgesic induced headache - In the event of prolonged use of analgesics or use beyond the regulations headache may occur, which must not be treated with increased doses of the medicinal product.

##### *Gastrointestinal:*

NSAIDs should be given with care to patients with a history of gastrointestinal disease (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease) as these conditions may be exacerbated (see section 4.8).

Gastrointestinal bleeding, ulceration or perforation, which can be fatal, has been reported with all NSAIDs at any time during treatment, with or without warning symptoms or a previous history of serious GI events.

The risk of GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation is higher with increasing NSAID doses, in patients with a history of ulcer, particularly if complicated with haemorrhage or perforation (see section 4.3), and in the elderly, however this effect is not usually seen with short term limited use products such as flurbiprofen lozenges. Patients with a history of GI toxicity, particularly when elderly, should report any unusual abdominal symptoms (especially GI bleeding) to their healthcare professional.

Caution should be advised in patients receiving concomitant medications which could increase the risk of ulceration or bleeding, such as oral corticosteroids, anticoagulants such as warfarin, selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors or anti-platelet agents such as acetylsalicylic acid (see section 4.5).

If GI bleeding or ulceration occurs in patients receiving flurbiprofen, the treatment should be withdrawn.

*Dermatological:*

Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis, have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NSAIDs (see section 4.8). Flurbiprofen lozenges should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

*Lactation and Impaired Female Fertility:* See section 4.6

*Infections:*

Since in isolated cases an exacerbation of infective inflammations (e.g. development of necrotising fasciitis) has been described in temporal association with the use of systemic NSAIDs as a class, the patient is advised to consult a physician immediately if signs of a bacterial infection occur or worsen during the flurbiprofen lozenges therapy. It should be considered whether initiation of an anti-infective antibiotic therapy is indicated.

In cases of purulent bacterial pharyngitis/tonsillitis, the patient is advised to consult a physician as the treatment needs to be re-evaluated.

Masking of symptoms of underlying infections:

Epidemiological studies suggest that systemic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can mask symptoms of infection, which may lead to delayed initiation of appropriate treatment and thereby worsening the outcome of the infection. This has been observed in bacterial community acquired pneumonia and bacterial complications to varicella. When Strepsils Intensive is administered while the patient suffers from fever or pain in relation to infection, monitoring of infection is advised. Treatment should be administered for three days maximum.

Haematological effects

Flurbiprofen, like other NSAIDs, may inhibit platelet aggregation and prolong bleeding time. Flurbiprofen lozenges should be used with caution in patients with a potential for abnormal bleeding.

*Sugar intolerance:*

Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance should not take this medicine. If the symptoms get worse or if new symptoms occur, the treatment should be re-evaluated.

If mouth irritation occurs, treatment should be withdrawn.

*Other warnings*

Contains Isomalt and Maltitol which may have a mild laxative effect after multiple daily doses.

Isomalt and Maltitol have a calorific value of 2.3 kcal/g

This medicine contains fragrance with Citral, Citronellol, d-Limonene, Geraniol and Linalool.

Citral, Citronellol, d-Limonene, Geraniol and Linalool may cause allergic reactions.

**4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

<b>Flurbiprofen should be <u>avoided</u> in combination with:</b>	
<i>Other NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors:</i>	Avoid concomitant use of two or more NSAIDs as this may increase the risk of adverse effects (esp. gastrointestinal adverse events such as ulcers and bleeding), (see section 4.4).
<i>Acetylsalicylic acid (low dose):</i>	Unless low-dose acetylsalicylic acid (not above 75mg daily) has been advised by a doctor, as this may increase the risk of adverse reactions (see section 4.4).
<b>Flurbiprofen should be <u>used with caution</u> in combination with:</b>	
<i>Anticoagulants:</i>	NSAIDs may enhance the effects of anti-coagulants, such as warfarin (see section 4.4).
<i>Anti-platelet Agents</i>	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding

	(see section 4.4).
<i>Antihypertensive drugs (Diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II-antagonists):</i>	NSAIDs may reduce the effect of diuretics and other antihypertensive drugs. In some patients with compromised renal function (e.g. dehydrated patients or elderly patients with compromised renal function) the co-administration of an ACE inhibitor or Angiotensin II antagonist and agents that inhibit cyclo-oxygenase may result in further deterioration of renal function, including possible acute renal failure, which is usually reversible. These interactions should be considered in patients taking flurbiprofen concomitantly with ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II antagonists. Therefore, the combination should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly. Patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to monitoring
<i>Alcohol:</i>	May increase the risk of adverse reactions, especially of bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract
<i>Cardiac glycosides:</i>	NSAIDs may exacerbate cardiac failure, reduce GFR and increase plasma glycoside levels - adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended
<i>Ciclosporin:</i>	Increased risk of nephrotoxicity.
<i>Corticosteroids:</i>	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4)
<i>Lithium:</i>	May increase serum levels of lithium – adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended
<i>Methotrexate:</i>	The administration of NSAIDs within 24 hours before or after administration of methotrexate may lead to elevated concentrations of methotrexate and an increase in its toxic effect.
<i>Mifepristone:</i>	NSAIDs should not be used for 8 – 12 days after mifepristone administration as NSAIDs can reduce the effect of mifepristone.
<i>Oral antidiabetics:</i>	Alteration of blood glucose levels reported (increased check rate recommended)
<i>Phenytoin:</i>	May increase serum levels of phenytoin – adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended
<i>Potassium sparing diuretics:</i>	Concomitant use may cause hyperkalaemia
<i>Probenecid Sulfinpyrazone:</i>	Medicinal products that contain probenecid or sulfinpyrazone may delay the excretion of flurbiprofen.
<i>Quinolone antibiotics:</i>	Animal data indicate that NSAIDs can increase the risk of convulsions associated with quinolone antibiotics. Patients taking NSAIDs and quinolones may have an increased risk of developing convulsions.
<i>Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's):</i>	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4).
<i>Tacrolimus:</i>	Possible increased risk of nephrotoxicity when NSAIDs are given with tacrolimus.
<i>Zidovudine:</i>	Increased risk of haematological toxicity when NSAIDs are given with zidovudine.

No studies so far have revealed any interactions between flurbiprofen and tolbutamide or antacids.

Paediatric population

No additional information available.

#### 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

**Pregnancy**

Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may adversely affect the pregnancy and/or the embryo/foetal development. Data from epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of miscarriage and of cardiac malformation and gastroschisis after use of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor in early pregnancy. The absolute risk for cardiovascular malformation was increased from less than 1%, up to approximately 1.5%. The risk is believed to increase with dose and duration of therapy. In animals, administration of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor has been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss and embryo-foetal lethality. In addition, increased incidences of various malformations, including cardiovascular, have been reported in animals given a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor during the organogenetic period. During the first and second trimester of pregnancy, flurbiprofen should not be given unless clearly necessary. If flurbiprofen is used by a woman attempting to conceive, or during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, the dose should be kept as low and duration of treatment as short as possible.

During the third trimester of pregnancy, all prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors may expose

- the foetus to:
  - cardiopulmonary toxicity (with premature closure of the ductus arteriosus and pulmonary hypertension);
  - renal dysfunction, which may progress to renal failure with oligo-hydroamniosis;
- the mother and the neonate, at the end of pregnancy, to:
  - possible prolongation of bleeding time, an anti-aggregating effect which may occur even at very low doses.
  - inhibition of uterine contractions resulting in delayed or prolonged labour.

Consequently, flurbiprofen is contraindicated during the third trimester of pregnancy (see section 4.3).

**Breast-feeding**

In limited studies, flurbiprofen appears in the breast milk in very low concentration and is unlikely to affect the breast-fed infant adversely. However, because of possible adverse effects of NSAIDs on breast-fed infants, Flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges are not recommended for use in nursing mothers (see section 4.4).

**Fertility**

There is some evidence that drugs which inhibit cyclo-oxygenase/ prostaglandin synthesis may cause impairment of female fertility by an effect on ovulation. This is reversible on withdrawal of treatment.

**4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use of machines have been performed. Dizziness, drowsiness and visual disturbances are possible undesirable side effects after taking NSAIDs. If affected, the patient should not drive or operate machinery.

**4.8 Undesirable effects**

Hypersensitivity reactions to NSAIDs have been reported and these may consist of:

- (a) Non – specific allergic reactions and anaphylaxis
- (b) Respiratory tract reactivity, e.g. asthma, aggravated asthma, bronchospasm, dyspnoea
- (c) Various skin reactions, e.g. pruritus, urticaria, angioedema and more rarely exfoliative and bullous dermatoses (including epidermal necrolysis and erythema multiforme).

Oedema, hypertension and cardiac failure have been reported in association with NSAID treatment.

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that the use of some NSAIDs, (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with a small increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke), (see section 4.4). There is insufficient data to exclude such a risk for Flurbiprofen 8.75 mg lozenges.

**The following list of adverse effects relates to those experienced with flurbiprofen at OTC doses for short-term use.**

Adverse events which have been associated with flurbiprofen are given below, tabulated by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as:

(Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), Common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ), Uncommon ( $\geq 1/1000$  to  $< 1/100$ ), Rare ( $\geq 1/10000$  to  $< 1/1000$ ), Very rare ( $< 1/10000$ ), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data))

System Organ Class	Frequency	Adverse Events
--------------------	-----------	----------------

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders	Not known	Anaemia, thrombocytopenia
Immune System Disorders	Rare	Anaphylactic reaction
	Not known	Hypersensitivity
Psychiatric Disorders	Uncommon	Insomnia
Nervous System Disorders	Common	Dizziness, headache, paraesthesia
	Uncommon	Somnolence
Cardiac disorders	Not known	Cardiac failure, oedema
Vascular disorders	Not known	Hypertension
Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders	Common	Throat irritation
	Uncommon	Exacerbation of asthma and bronchospasm, dyspnoea, oropharyngeal blistering, pharyngeal hypoaesthesia
Gastrointestinal Disorders	Common	Diarrhoea, mouth ulceration, nausea, oral pain, paraesthesia oral, oropharyngeal pain, oral discomfort (warm or burning feeling or tingling of the mouth)
	Uncommon	Abdominal distension, abdominal pain, constipation, dry mouth, dyspepsia, flatulence, glossodynia, dysgeusia, oral dysaesthesia, vomiting
Hepatobiliary Disorders	Not known	Hepatitis
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders	Uncommon	Pruritus
	Not known	Severe forms of skin reaction such as bullous reactions, including Stevens- Johnson Syndrome, erythema multiform and toxic epidermal necrolysis
General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions	Uncommon	Pyrexia, pain

#### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via HPRA Pharmacovigilance. Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie).

#### **4.9 Overdose**

##### *Symptoms:*

Most patients who have ingested clinically important amounts of NSAIDs will develop no more than nausea, vomiting, epigastric pain, or more rarely diarrhoea. Tinnitus, headache, and gastrointestinal bleeding are also possible. In more serious poisoning with NSAIDs, toxicity is seen in the central nervous system, manifesting as drowsiness, occasionally excitation, blurred vision and disorientation or coma. Occasionally patients develop convulsions. In serious poisoning with NSAIDs metabolic acidosis may occur and the prothrombin time/INR may be prolonged, probably due to interference with the actions of circulating clotting factors. Acute renal failure and liver damage may occur. Exacerbation of asthma is possible in asthmatics.

##### *Management:*

Management should be symptomatic and supportive and include the maintenance of a clear airway and monitoring of cardiac and vital signs until stable. Consider oral administration of activated charcoal or gastric lavage and if necessary correction of serum electrolytes if the patient presents within one hour of ingestion or a potentially toxic amount. If frequent or prolonged, convulsions should be treated with intravenous diazepam or lorazepam. Give bronchodilators for asthma. There is no specific antidote to flurbiprofen.

## **5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic Group: Throat preparations, other throat preparations.

ATC Code: R02AX01

Flurbiprofen is a propionic acid derivative NSAID which acts through inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis. In humans flurbiprofen has potent analgesic, antipyretic and anti-inflammatory properties and the 8.75mg dose dissolved in artificial saliva has been shown to reduce prostaglandin synthesis in cultured human respiratory cells. According to studies using the whole blood assay, flurbiprofen is a mixed COX-1/COX-2 inhibitor with some selectivity towards COX-1.

Pre-clinical studies suggest that the R (-) enantiomer of flurbiprofen and related NSAIDs may act on the central nervous system; the suggested mechanism is by inhibition of induced COX-2 at the level of the spinal cord.

A single dose of flurbiprofen 8.75mg delivered locally to the throat in a lozenge has been demonstrated to relieve sore throat, including swollen and inflamed sore throats through a significant reduction (LS Mean Difference in mm) in sore throat pain intensity from 22 minutes (-5.5mm), reaching a maximum at 70 minutes (-13.7mm) and remaining significant for up to 240 minutes (-3.5mm) including patients with streptococcal and non-streptococcal infections, reduction in difficulty swallowing from 20 minutes (-6.7mm), reaching a maximum at 110 minutes (-13.9mm) and for up to 240 minutes (-3.5mm) and reduction in the feeling of a swollen throat at 60 minutes (-9.9mm), reaching a maximum at 120 minutes (-11.4mm) and for up to 210 minutes (-5.1mm) over 6 hour assessment time.

Two multiple dose efficacy studies measured Sum of Pain Intensity Differences (SPID mm\*h) over 24 hours has demonstrated significant reduction in sore throat pain intensity (-473.7mm\*h to -529.1mm\*h), difficulty swallowing (-458.4mm\*h to -575.0mm\*h) and swollen throat (-482.4mm\*h to -549.9mm\*h) with statistically significant greater summed reduction in pain at each hourly interval over 24 hours for all three measures when compared to placebo. Efficacy of multiple doses after 24 hours and over 3 days has also been demonstrated.

For those patients taking antibiotics for streptococcal infection, there was statistically significant greater relief of sore throat pain intensity for flurbiprofen 8.75mg from 7 hours and onwards after antibiotics were taken. The analgesic effect of flurbiprofen 8.75 mg was not reduced by the administration of antibiotics to treat patients with streptococcal sore throat. At 2 hours post first dose, flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges provided significant resolution of some of the associated symptoms of sore throat present at baseline including coughing (50% vs 4%), loss of appetite (84% vs 57%) and feverishness (68% vs 29%). The lozenge format dissolves in the mouth over 5 - 12 minutes and provides a measurable soothing and coating effect at 2 minutes.

### Paediatric Population

No specific studies in children have been undertaken. Efficacy and safety studies on flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges have included adolescents aged 12 – 17 years, although small sample size means that no statistical conclusions can be drawn.

## 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

### Absorption

Flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges dissolve over 5 – 12 minutes and the flurbiprofen is readily absorbed, with detection in the blood at 5 minutes and plasma concentrations peaking at 40 - 45 minutes after administration but remaining at a mean low level of 1.4µg/mL which is approximately 4.4 times lower than a 50mg tablet dose. Absorption of flurbiprofen can occur from the buccal cavity by passive diffusion. Rate of absorption is dependent on pharmaceutical form with peak concentrations achieved more rapidly than, but of similar magnitude to, those achieved after an equivalent swallowed dose.

### Distribution

Flurbiprofen is rapidly distributed throughout the body and is extensively bound to plasma proteins.

### Metabolism / Excretion

Flurbiprofen is mainly metabolised by hydroxylation and excreted via the kidneys. It has an elimination half-life of 3 to 6 hours. Flurbiprofen is excreted in very small amounts in human milk (less than 0.05 µg/ml). Approximately 20-25% of a flurbiprofen oral dose is excreted unchanged.

### Special Groups

No difference in pharmacokinetic parameters between elderly and young adult volunteers has been reported following oral administration of flurbiprofen tablets. No pharmacokinetic data have been generated in children below 12 years of age following administration of Flurbiprofen 8.75 mg however administration of both flurbiprofen syrup and suppository formulations indicate no significant differences in pharmacokinetic parameters compared with adults.

## 5.3 Preclinical safety data

There are no preclinical data of relevance additional to information already included in other relevant sections.

## 6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

### 6.1 List of excipients

Macrogol 300

Potassium hydroxide (E525)

Orange flavour (contains Flavouring substances, Triacetin, Citral, Citronellol, d-Limonene, Geraniol and Linalool)

Levomenthol

Acesulfame Potassium (E950)

Maltitol, Liquid (E965)

Isomalt (E953)

**6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable



### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 25°C

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Opaque PVC/PVdC/Al blister. Pack size of 8 or 16 lozenges. Not all pack sizes may be marketed

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling**

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## **7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Reckitt Benckiser Ireland Ltd  
7 Riverwalk  
Citywest Business Campus  
Dublin 24  
Ireland

## **8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER**

PA0979/041/006

## **9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

Date of first authorisation: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## **10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

March 2024