

## What is a special ?

A "special" is a non-licensed medicine prescribed by the doctor to meet the special needs of an individual patient, when the licensed medicine can not be used.

The doctors prescribe "specials" for various reasons:

- the patient can not swallow tablets and a tailor made, liquid alternative has to be prescribed,
- the patient is allergic to certain drugs excipients and a special medicine without those excipients is required,
- the child can not tolerate certain flavours in a licensed medicine; prescribing a "special" with an alternative flavour aims to increase compliance,
- a non-standard strength or concentration of licensed medicine is needed for certain medical conditions,
- a licensed product is discontinued or temporarily unavailable.