# **Oral Thrush Standing Order Template**

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| Issue date: | August 2024 | Review date: | August 2025 |

This standing order is to apply until it is either replaced by a new standing order covering the same subject matter or cancelled in writing by the issuer.

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| **Standing Order Name** | Oral Thrush |
| **Rationale** | To promptly and appropriately treat patients presenting with symptoms of oral thrush. |
| **Scope (condition and patient group)** | Adult patients who present with symptoms of oral thrush due to infection with candidia albicans. |
| **Red Flags** | In people with reduced immunity, thrush may be widespread and may require more extensive treatment. |
| **Assessment** | 1. Lesions on the oral mucosa often start as tiny focal areas that enlarge to white or creamy coloured patches. 2. When scraped, lesions are difficult to remove and leave behind an inflamed base (which may bleed). 3. Check for the following  * Ill-fitting dentures * Diabetes * Chemotherapy/radiotherapy (undergoing or recent) * Smoking * Antibiotics * Steroids, including inhaled corticosteroids * Dry mouth * Glossitis/mucositis/stomatitis * symptoms of thrush in other areas (e.g. vaginal or under breasts or in groins/skin folds)  1. Differentiate between oral thrush and a coated tongue. |
| **Indication** | Treatment of oral thrush |
| **Medicine** | **Nystatin** suspension 100, 000 international units/mL |
| **Dosage instructions** | 1mL FOUR times daily after food and/or teeth brushing for 7 days. Administer dose under the tongue and swirl around mouth for 30 seconds before swallowing. |
| **Route of administration** | Oral |
| **Quantity to be given** | 1 x original pack |
| **Contraindications** | Hypersensitivity to nystatin or any excipients |
| **Precautions** | Nil |
| **Additional information** | Advise patient to continue for treatment for 48 hours after symptom resolution.  Advise patient to remove dentures overnight and clean with an anti-candidal solution. |
| **Follow-up** | Advise patient to return if thrush does not resolve by end of treatment or if reoccurs.  Recurrent or persistent thrush may indicate an underlying condition that needs investigation. |
| **Countersigning and auditing** | Countersigning is not required.  Audit:  50% monthly of administration and/ or supply records if there are 20 or fewer in total.  20-30% of administration and/ or supply records if they are in the range of 21-100. |
| **Competency/training requirements** | All healthcare professionals working under this standing order must be signed off as competent to do so by the issuer and have had specific training in this standing order. |
| **Supporting documentation** | HealthPathways at [www.healthpathways.org.nz](http://www.healthpathways.org.nz) (Oral Care in Palliative Care)  Dermnet - https://dermnetnz.org/topics/oral-candidiasis  New Zealand Formulary at [www.nzf.org.nz](http://www.nzf.org.nz) and [Oropharyngeal fungal infections - New Zealand Formulary (nzf.org.nz)](https://www.nzf.org.nz/nzf_6191)  Individual medicine data sheets at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz)  Standing Order Guidelines, Ministry of Health, https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/standing-order-guidelines |
| **Definition of terms used in standing order** | Glossitis, Mucositis and Stomatitis – inflammation of the tongue, mucus membranes and the mouth or lips. |

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| **Medical Centre or Clinic:** |  |

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| **Signed by issuers** |

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| **Healthcare professionals operating under Oral Thrush Standing Order** |

Only registered healthcare professionals working within the above medical centre or clinic are authorised to administer medication under this standing order.

We the undersigned agree that we have read, understood and will comply with this standing order and all associated documents.

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