NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

1. PRODUCT NAME

Duro-Tuss Dry Cough Liquid Forte

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each 5 mL of the medicine contains 15 mg dextromethorphan hydrobromide monohydrate.

Excipients with known effect:
Sodium benzoate, sucralose and sorbitol.

For full list of excipients, see section 6.1 List of excipients.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Oral Solution: A clear and colourless solution with strawberry flavour.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Cough suppressant for the temporary relief of stubborn, tickly, dry coughs.

4.2 Dose and method of administration

For oral administration.

Age	**Dosage**	**How often**
Adults and children 12 years & over	10 mL	Every 6-8 hours if necessary (maximum 4 doses per day)
Children 6 – 11 years	5 mL	
Children under 6 years	Do not use	

4.3 Contraindications

Duro-Tuss Dry Cough Liquid Forte is contraindicated in:

- Children under the age of 6 years
- Hypersensitivity to dextromethorphan or any of the excipients listed in section 6.1 List of excipients
- Patients taking a prescription monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI), a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), or other medications for depression, psychiatric, or emotional conditions, or Parkinson's disease, or for 2 weeks after stopping the medication. If you are not sure if your prescription medication contains one of these drugs, ask a doctor or pharmacist before taking this product
- Patients taking a selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor (SSRI), other medications for depression, psychiatric, or emotional conditions, or Parkinson's disease.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Dextromethorphan is not recommended in patients suffering from chronic cough as occurs with smoking, asthma or patients suffering from an acute asthma attack, or where cough is accompanied by excessive secretions.

Causes of chronic cough should be excluded if symptoms are persistent. Any accompanying symptoms should be appropriately investigated and treated. Patients should be advised to stop use and seek medical advice if their cough lasts more than 7 days, returns or is accompanied by a fever, rash or persistent headache.

Concomitant use of Duro-Tuss Dry Cough Liquid Forte with other medicines intended to treat the symptoms of the common cold is not recommended.

Drug dependence, tolerance and potential for abuse

Prolonged use of dextromethorphan may lead to drug dependence even at therapeutic doses. The risks are increased in individuals with current or past history of substance misuse (including alcohol misuse) or mental health disorder (e.g., major depression). Caution is particularly recommended for adolescents and young adults as well as in patients with a history of drug abuse or psychoactive substances.

Drug withdrawal syndrome

The drug withdrawal syndrome is characterised by some or all of the following:
Restlessness, lacrimation, rhinorrhoea, yawning, perspiration, chills, myalgia, mydriasis and palpitations. Other symptoms may also develop including irritability, agitation, anxiety, hyperkinesia, tremor, weakness, insomnia, anorexia, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, increased blood pressure, increased respiratory rate or heart rate.

Dextromethorphan is metabolised by hepatic cytochrome P450 2D6. The activity of this enzyme is genetically determined. About 10% of the general population are poor metabolisers of CYP2D6. Poor metabolisers and patients with concomitant use of CYP2D6 inhibitors may experience exaggerated and/or prolonged effects of dextromethorphan. Caution should therefore be exercised in patients who are slow metabolisers of CYP2D6 or use CYP2D6 inhibitors (see also section 4.5 Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction).

Serotonin Syndrome

Serotonergic effects, including the development of a potentially life-threatening serotonin syndrome, have been reported for dextromethorphan with concomitant administration of serotonergic agents, such as selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs), drugs which impair metabolism of serotonin (including monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)) and CYP2D6 inhibitors.

Serotonin syndrome may include mental-status changes, autonomic instability, neuromuscular abnormalities, and/or gastrointestinal symptoms. If serotonin syndrome is suspected, treatment with Duro-Tuss Dry Cough Liquid Forte should be discontinued.

4.5 Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction

Dextromethorphan possesses weak serotonergic properties. Thereby dextromethorphan may increase the risk of serotonin toxicity (serotonin syndrome) particularly if taken with other serotonergic agents, such as MAOIs, SSRIs and CYP2D6 inhibitors. Especially pre-treatment or concomitant treatment with medicines that impair metabolism of serotonin, such as antidepressants of the MAO inhibitor type, may result in the development of a serotonin syndrome.

Dextromethorphan should not be used in patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or who have taken MAOIs within the previous 14 days. The use of dextromethorphan with, or within two weeks of taking MAOIs, may increase the risk of serious side effects such as hypertensive crisis, hyperpyrexia and convulsions (see Section 4.3 Contraindications).

Dextromethorphan when used with SSRI's (such as fluoxetine) or tricyclic antidepressants (such as clomipramine and imipramine) may result in a "serotonin syndrome" with changes in mental status (e.g. agitation, excitement, confusion), hypertension, restlessness, myoclonus, hyperreflexia, diaphoresis, shivering and tremor.

CYP2D6 inhibitors

Dextromethorphan is metabolised by CYP2D6 and has an extensive first-pass metabolism. Concomitant use of potent CYP2D6 enzyme inhibitors can increase the dextromethorphan concentrations in the body to levels multi-fold higher than normal. This increases the patient's risk for toxic effects of dextromethorphan (agitation, confusion, tremor, insomnia, diarrhoea and respiratory depression) and development of serotonin syndrome. Potent CYP2D6 enzyme inhibitors include fluoxetine, paroxetine, quinidine and terbinafine.

In concomitant use with quinidine, plasma concentrations of dextromethorphan have increased up to 20-fold, which has increased the CNS adverse effects of the agent. Amiodarone, flecainide and propafenone, sertraline, bupropion, methadone, cinacalcet, haloperidol, perphenazine and thioridazine also have similar effects on the metabolism of dextromethorphan.

If concomitant use of CYP2D6 inhibitors and dextromethorphan is necessary, the patient should be monitored, and the dextromethorphan dose may need to be reduced.

Alcohol

Drinking alcoholic beverages whilst using dextromethorphan is not recommended. Taking Duro-Tuss Dry Cough Liquid Forte with medicines containing e.g. propylene glycol or ethanol may lead to accumulation of ethanol and induce adverse effects, particularly in young children with low or immature metabolic capacity.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Category A

Although dextromethorphan has been in widespread use for many years without apparent ill-consequence, there are no specific data on its use during pregnancy.
It is not known whether dextromethorphan or its metabolites are excreted in human milk.
Caution should therefore be exercised by balancing the potential benefit of treatment against any possible hazards during pregnancy and in nursing mothers.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Dextromethorphan can impair cognitive function and can affect a patient's ability to drive safely or operate machinery.

Patients are therefore advised to exercise caution before driving or use of machinery until they know Duro-Tuss Dry Cough Liquid Forte does not adversely affect their performance.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The frequency of undesirable effects is based on the following categories:
Very Common ≥ 1/10, Common ≥ 1/100 < 1/10, Uncommon ≥ 1/1,000 < 1/100, Rare ≥ 1/10,000 < 1/1,000, Very Rare < 1/10,000, Not known: cannot be estimated from the data available.

Adverse effects are rare, however the following side effects may be associated with dextromethorphan hydrobromide:

Gastrointestinal Disorders:

Rare: Gastrointestinal upset

Nervous System Disorders:

Rare: Dizziness, drowsiness, mental confusion

Immune System Disorders:

Hypersensitivity reactions

Psychiatric disorders:

Frequency unknown: Drug dependence (see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use)

General disorders:

Frequency unknown: Drug withdrawal syndrome

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions https://pophealth.my.site.com/carmreportnz/s/

4.9 Overdose

Dextromethorphan overdose may be associated with nausea, vomiting, dystonia, agitation, confusion, somnolence, stupor, nystagmus, cardiotoxicity (tachycardia, abnormal ECG including QTc prolongation), ataxia, toxic psychosis with visual hallucinations, hyperexcitability.

In the event of massive overdose, the following symptoms may be observed: coma, respiratory depression, convulsions.

Dextromethorphan may increase the risk of serotonin syndrome, and this risk is increased by overdose, particularly if taken with other serotonergic agents.

Management:
The mainstay of treatment is supportive and symptomatic care. If necessary, close intensive care monitoring with symptom-related treatment should be initiated.

Activated charcoal can be administered to asymptomatic patients who have ingested overdoses of dextromethorphan within the preceding hour.

For patients who have ingested dextromethorphan and are sedated or comatose, naloxone, in the usual doses for treatment of opioid overdose, can be considered. Benzodiazepines for seizures and benzodiazepines and external cooling measures for hyperthermia from serotonin syndrome can be used.

For advice on the management of overdose please contact the National Poisons Centre on 0800 POISON (0800 764766).

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Dextromethorphan hydrobromide is a non-opioid cough suppressant which has a central action on the cough centre in the medulla.

It has no analgesic properties and little sedative activity.

The onset of antitussive effect occurs within an hour and the duration of action is approximately 3 – 6 hours.

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Cough suppressant
ATC code: R05DA09

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Dextromethorphan hydrobromide is well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract.

Metabolism

Dextromethorphan undergoes rapid and extensive first-pass metabolism in the liver after oral administration. Genetically controlled O-demethylation (CYD2D6) is the main determinant of dextromethorphan pharmacokinetics in human volunteers.

It appears that there are distinct phenotypes for this oxidation process resulting in highly variable pharmacokinetics between subjects. Unmetabolised dextromethorphan, together with the three demethylated morphinan metabolites dextrorphan (also known as 3-hydroxy-N-methylmorphinan), 3- hydroxymorphinan and 3-methoxymorphinan have been identified as conjugated products in the urine.

Dextrorphan, which also has antitussive action, is the main metabolite. In some individuals, metabolism proceeds more slowly and unchanged dextromethorphan predominates in the blood and urine.

Excretion

It is excreted in the urine as unchanged dextromethorphan and demethylated metabolites, including dextrorphan. The plasma elimination half-life of dextromethorphan is 1.2 to 3.9 hours. However, the rate of metabolism varies between individuals according to phenotype (extensive v poor metabolisers), with half-life being as long as 45 hours in patients who are poor metabolisers.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

No data available.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium benzoate
Anhydrous citric acid
Disodium Edetate
Hydroxy ethyl cellulose
Beta-cyclodextrin
Sucralose
Sodium citrate
Sorbitol Solution 70%
Strawberry Flavour RQ-556-848-6

Disodium hydrogen phosphate anhydrous
Purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

24 months

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store at or below 30°C

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Amber PET bottle with polypropylene CRC tamper evident wadded cap.

Pack size: 100 mL and 200 mL

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.

7. MEDICINE SCHEDULE

Restricted medicine

8. SPONSOR

iNova Pharmaceuticals (New Zealand) Limited
C/- Simpson Grierson,
88 Shortland Street
AUCKLAND 1141
Telephone: 0508 375 394

9. DATE OF FIRST APPROVAL

26 February 2026

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

26 February 2026

SUMMARY TABLE OF CHANGES

Section changed:	**Summary of new information:**
All	New data sheet