
Antipyretic Prescribing

Author: Dr Shonagh Mooney



The Irish College of General Practitioners

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- Teaching, training and education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
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Contact Us

Irish College of General Practitioners
4-5 Lincoln Place, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6763705, Fax: 01 6765850
Email: info@icgp.ie
Web: www.icgp.ie

Author: Dr Shonagh Mooney

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Advice on managing your child's fever

This sheet gives you advice on what to do if your child has a fever, particularly around when and how to use paracetamol and ibuprofen to bring their temperature down. Usually a fever is caused by common infections which are not serious but sometimes a fever can mean that your child has a serious illness.

What do I do if my child has a fever?

- Take their temperature
- Dress your child normally - children with fever should not be under dressed or over wrapped
- Do not use a cool cloth or sponge to get their temperature down
- Use either paracetamol or ibuprofen if they are upset or unwell

Can I give my child paracetamol and ibuprofen if they are already on an antibiotic?

Yes.

Will paracetamol and ibuprofen stop febrile convulsions (fever fit)?

No. They will not prevent febrile convulsions and you should not use them specifically for this purpose.

How do I give my child paracetamol and ibuprofen?

Start by giving your child either paracetamol **or** Ibuprofen. If the one you started with doesn't work, try giving them the other. If this doesn't work try giving them both paracetamol and ibuprofen with the appropriate dose interval.

Example: If you give your child paracetamol to start with. After an hour their temperature is still high, try giving them ibuprofen, then paracetamol the next time, then ibuprofen the next time and so on.

Give your child four doses of paracetamol over 24 hours and three does of ibuprofen over 24 hours.

Do not give more than this.

Leave 4 to 6 hours between **each** dose of paracetamol and 6 to 8 hours between **each** dose of ibuprofen.

Give your child paracetamol and / or ibuprofen based on their weight **not** their age. This will work better in bringing down their temperature.

1.The dose of paracetamol _____mg/5ml is _____ml (given every 4 – 6 hrs **max 4** times per 24 hours)

2.The dose of ibuprofen _____mg/5ml is _____ml (given every 6 – 8 hrs **max 3** times per 24 hours)

Doctor's signature: _____

Date: _____

Medicine Chart for Parents

Keep track of when you give your child their medicines
(paracetamol, ibuprofen and antibiotics)

This chart helps you keep track of the amount of paracetamol, ibuprofen and antibiotic (if they are taking one) you are giving your child and when.

Tick the box across from the time you give the various doses (amounts of medicine) to your child.

	Paracetamol 4 – 6 hourly (Max 4 doses per 24 hours)	Ibuprofen 6 - 8 hourly (Max 3 doses per 24 hours)	Antibiotic (take as directed)
Trade name			
Mg / ml			
Dose			
6am in the morning			
7am			
8am			
9am			
10am			
11am			
12 midday			
1pm			
2pm			
3pm			
4pm			
5pm			
6pm			
7pm			
8pm			
9pm			
10pm			
11pm			
12 midnight			
1am			
2am			
3am			
4am			
5am			

Doctor: _____

Date: _____

IBUPROFEN DOSING CHART

Weight (kg):	Ibuprofen (3 mths – 6 yrs) (6 - 8 hrly – Max 3 doses per 24 hrs) 100mg / 5mls:	Ibuprofen (6 yrs +) (6 - 8 hrly – Max 3 doses per 24 hrs) 200mg / 5mls:
5kg	1.9mls	~
6kg	2.3mls	~
7kg	2.6mls	~
8kg	3mls	~
9kg	3.4mls	~
10kg	3.8mls	~
11kg	4.1mls	~
12kg	4.5mls	~
13kg	4.9mls	~
14kg	5.3mls	~
15kg	5.6mls	~
16kg	6mls	~
17kg	6.4mls	~
18kg	6.8mls	~
19kg	7.1mls	~
20kg	7.5mls	3.8mls
21kg	7.9mls	3.9mls
22kg	8.3mls	4.1mls
23kg	8.6mls	4.3mls
24kg	9mls	4.5mls
25kg	9.4mls	4.7mls
26kg	9.8mls	4.9mls
27kg	10.1mls	5mls
28kg	10.5mls	5.3mls
29kg	10.9mls	5.4mls
30kg	11.3mls	5.6mls
31kg	11.6mls	5.8mls
32kg	12mls	6mls
33kg	12.4mls	6.2mls
34kg	12.8mls	6.4mls
35kg	13.1mls	6.5mls
36kg	13.5mls	6.8mls
37kg	13.9mls	6.9mls
38kg	14.3mls	7.1mls
39kg	14.6mls	7.3mls
40kg	15mls	7.5mls
41kg	15.4mls	7.6mls
42kg	15.8mls	7.9mls
43kg	16.1mls	8mls
44kg	16.5mls	8.3mls
45kg	16.9mls	8.4mls
46kg	17.3mls	8.6mls
47kg	17.6mls	8.8mls
48kg	18mls	9mls
49kg	18.4mls	9.2mls
50kg	18.8mls	9.3mls

PARACETAMOL DOSING CHART

Weight (kg):	Paracetamol (3mths-6yrs) (4-6hrly – Max 4 doses per 24 hrs) 120mg / 5mls:	Paracetamol (6yrs +) (4-6hrly – Max 4 doses per 24 hrs) 250mg / 5mls:
4kg	2.5mls	1.2mls
5kg	3.1mls	1.5mls
6kg	3.8mls	1.8mls
7kg	4.4mls	2.1mls
8kg	5mls	2.4mls
9kg	5.6mls	2.7mls
10kg	6.3mls	3mls
11kg	6.9mls	3.3mls
12kg	7.5mls	3.6mls
13kg	8.1mls	3.9mls
14kg	8.8mls	4.2mls
15kg	9.4mls	4.5mls
16kg	10mls	4.8mls
17kg	10.6mls	5.1mls
18kg	11.3mls	5.4mls
19kg	11.9mls	5.7mls
20kg	12.5mls	6mls
21kg	13.1mls	6.3mls
22kg	13.8mls	6.6mls
23kg	14.4mls	6.9mls
24kg	15mls	7.2mls
25kg	15.6mls	7.5mls
26kg	16.3mls	7.8mls
27kg	16.8mls	8.1mls
28kg	17.5mls	8.4mls
29kg	18.1mls	8.7mls
30kg	18.8mls	9mls
31kg	19.4mls	9.3mls
32kg	20mls	9.6mls
33kg	20.6mls	9.9mls
34kg	21.3mls	10.2mls
35kg	21.9mls	10.5mls
36kg	~	10.8mls
37kg	~	11.1mls
38kg	~	11.4mls
39kg	~	11.7mls
40kg	~	12mls
41kg	~	12.3mls
42kg	~	12.6mls
43kg	~	12.9mls
44kg	~	13.2mls
45kg	~	13.5mls
46kg	~	13.8mls
47kg	~	14.1mls
48kg	~	14.4mls
49kg	~	14.7mls
50kg	~	15mls