

ADMINISTRATION OF PARACETAMOL OR IBUPROFEN

OVERVIEW

This user guide outlines the steps that must be followed when managing pain with medications that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen. DECD sites do not administer paracetamol or ibuprofen to manage a fever. Where a fever is present, the 'First Aid Guide for Education and Children's Services' is followed.

From the DECD 'Family Day Care Fact Sheet: Paracetamol':

"The use of Paracetamol for the treatment of common childhood illnesses has come under increased scrutiny in recent years. We are now aware of the potential for the masking of important symptoms, if it is administered without a doctor's health assessment. It is now clear that the administration of this medication should only be in accordance with a doctor's prescription".

Paracetamol is not administered in any DECD schools or preschools without a doctor's prescription and medical authority, and is not administered in many child care centres.

INSTRUCTIONS

Leadership will:

- Monitor and review this policy as needed
- Oversee documentation of health concerns and conduct regular medication audits

Educators will:

- Check child's medication plan/authorisation before administering paracetamol/ibuprofen.
- Check time of last dose on Medication Administration Log.
Check and record child's temperature on medication record. If the child's temperature is between 36.5 and 37.5 degrees or consistently below 38°, paracetamol/ibuprofen can be administered for pain management or to treat symptoms as outlined in their medication plan.
- Refrain from administering paracetamol/ibuprofen if the child's temperature is elevated (above 37.5 degrees). Wait and check temperature after half an hour as the fever can indicate an infection or contagious viral disease. If temperature is rising, continue to monitor until 38 degrees and then apply first aid (as outlined in the First Aid Guidelines) and notify their parent/s to pick up the child.

Families will:

- Complete a medication plan and authorisation for specific conditions concerning paracetamol/ibuprofen as treatment and have it signed by a doctor. The duration for which this medication is to be administered must have an end date listed. A medication plan with a note summarising the Centre's procedure for pain management for your doctor's information is available upon request.
- Collect their child from the Centre if requested to by educators.

Implemented: March 2014

Reviewed: March 2017

Next Review: March 2018

DECD Policies:

Family Day Care Fact Sheet: Paracetamol

Staying Healthy in Childcare (5th Edition): Part 2 'Monitoring Illness in Children' pp31-32

Medication Management: Frequently Asked Questions

Apparent High Temperature Flowchart

DECD Forms:

Medication Plan

Medication Administration Log

Centre Forms:

Paracetamol administration note (attached to Medication plan)