

ADMINISTRATION OF PAIN RELIEF

OVERVIEW

This user guide outlines the steps that must be followed when managing pain with medications that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen. Department of Education 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.

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. Pain relief medication is not administered in any Department schools or preschools more than three times per week without a doctor's prescription and medical agreement.

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 agreement 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°C and 37.5°C or consistently below 38°C, paracetamol/ibuprofen can be administered for pain management or to treat symptoms as outlined in their medication agreement.
- 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 family to collect the child.
- Administer pain relief no more than three times within a 7 day period (with the first dose being considered day 1) without a medication agreement signed by a health professional.

Families will:

- Complete a medication agreement signed by a medical professional with any instructions to administer pain relief more than three times within a 7 day period (with the first dose being considered day 1).
- Provide any pain relief medication in original packaging with correct pharmaceutical labeling.
- Collect their child from the Centre if they present with a body temperature of 38°C or higher.

Implemented: March 2014

Reviewed: July 2019

Next Review: March 2020

DECD Policies:

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

DECD Forms:

Medication Agreement

Medication Administration Log