

Medication: Acetaminophen	PDN: 6958.05	Last Updated: May 5 2024	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Teena Robinson*	Page 1 of 2
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ACETAMINOPHEN

1.0 Classification

- Aniline analgesic and antipyretic

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis resulting in analgesia, less effect on cyclooxygenase therefore very little anti-inflammatory properties.

3.0 Indications

- Mild to moderate pain associated with:
 - Headache
 - Hip or extremity trauma
 - Musculoskeletal neck or back pain
- Fever above 38° Celsius

4.0 Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity
- Active vomiting and unable to take oral medications
- Major burns
- History of advanced liver disease
- Acetaminophen taken in the past 6 hours

5.0 Precautions

- None

6.0 Route

- May be given PO

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 975 mg PO once (no repeat dose)

Pediatric

- 15 mg/kg PO once (no repeat dose)

Pediatric Dosing Guide for (80 mg/mL) Liquid Suspension

Weight (kg)	Acetaminophen dose
3	45 mg 0.56 mL
4	60 mg 0.75 mL
5	75 mg 0.94 mL
6	90 mg 1.13 mL
7	105 mg 1.31 mL
8	120 mg 1.50 mL
9	135 mg 1.69 mL
10	150 mg 1.88 mL

11	165 mg	2.06 mL
12	180 mg	2.25 mL
13	195 mg	2.44 mL
14	210 mg	2.63 mL
15	225 mg	2.81 mL
16	240 mg	3.00 mL
17	255 mg	3.19 mL
18	270 mg	3.38 mL
19	285 mg	3.56 mL
20	300 mg	3.75 mL
21	315 mg	3.94 mL

8.0 Supplied

- 325 mg tablets
- 80 mg/mL in a 15 mL bottle (for single patient use)

9.0 May Be Given By

- EMR/PCP/ICP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse Effects

- Very few side effects when used as indicated.

11.0 Special Notes

- Acetaminophen and ibuprofen should be administered together for pain management whenever possible.
- Not appropriate for treatment of hyperthermia with an environmental or toxicological cause.
- When using the 80 mg/mL oral suspension for pediatrics, a dose of 15 mg/kg should be used. EHS dosing may exceed the age and weight recommendations on the packaging.
- If pediatric patient can swallow tablets and appropriate dose is at least 325 mg, acetaminophen tablets can be administered (titrate dose to closest multiple of 325 mg).
- More than 600 medications contain acetaminophen. The following lists a few that are commonly purchased over the counter or prescribed:

▪ Tylenol brand products	▪ Sudafed	▪ Excedrin
▪ Endocet	▪ Sinutab	▪ Dayquil
▪ Fioricet	▪ Midol	▪ Dristan
▪ Percocet	▪ Nyquil	▪ Cepacol
▪ Tylenol with Codeine	▪ Robitussin	
- Pregnancy category B [if there is a clinical need for it, Category B drugs are considered safe to use]

12.0 References

- Extremity Trauma Clinical Practice Guideline
- Headache Clinical Practice Guideline
- Non-traumatic Extremity Emergencies Clinical Practice Guideline
- Pain Management Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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