

Paediatric Analgesia Guidelines

As with all drugs, modification of the recommended dosage must be considered in the presence of organ dysfunction. All analgesics (except slow release preparations) may be given on a PRN basis but strong consideration should be given to prescribing pain relief on a regular basis, especially when initiating therapy. The following information is intended for your guidance and use with **in-patients only**. Please consult a senior colleague, a member of the Department of Anaesthesia or Paediatric Pain Service if you are unsure about your prescription.

Drug	Suggested Dosing Regimens	Preparations	Considerations
Paracetamol -Oral	<p>Less than 32 weeks - See Newborn Services Guidelines</p> <p>Preterm 32 - 38 weeks 10mg/kg - 8 hourly (Max 40mg/kg/24hrs)</p> <p>Neonates and infants over 38 weeks and up to 3 months 10mg/kg - 6 hourly (Max 60mg/kg/24hrs)</p> <p>Infants and children over 3 months 20mg/kg - 6 hourly or QID - inpatient use only for a limited time Discharge dose - 15mg/kg/QID</p> <p>-Max 90mg/kg/24hrs -Do not exceed 4 grams/24 hours</p>	<p>Oral suspension: 120mg/5mL, 250mg/5mL Tablets: 500mg</p>	<p>-Jaundice -Hepatic impairment -Renal impairment -Hepatotoxicity with doses exceeding 150mg/kg/24hrs</p> <p>For paracetamol dosing in overweight and obese children consider using ideal body weight for age to dose.</p>
Paracetamol -Rectal	<p>-Dosing as above -Chart suppositories as whole doses (do not cut suppositories)</p>	<p>Suppositories: 25mg, 50mg, 125mg, 250mg, 500mg</p>	
Paracetamol -Intravenous	<p>See Newborn Services paracetamol guidelines if neonate less than 32 weeks</p> <p>Neonates and infants over 32 weeks and less than 10kg 7.5mg/kg - 6 hourly (Max 30mg/kg/day)</p> <p>Infants and children greater than 10kg 15mg/kg - 6 hourly Max 60mg/kg/day up to 4 grams/24 hours -Refer to Guardrails for infusion information</p>	<p>500mg/50mL 1000mg/100mL</p>	<p>Only for use in patients that are strictly NBM for medical reason.</p> <p>Dose must not exceed the dosing regimens outlined (max 15mg/kg/6hrly >10kg)</p> <p>Prescribing must be IV ONLY (not IV/PO)</p>
Ibuprofen	<p>Over one month of age 5mg/kg 6 - 8 hourly if ≤ 3 months 5-10mg/kg 6-8hourly if > 3months -Max 40mg/kg/24hrs -Do not exceed 1600mg/24 hours</p>	<p>Oral suspension: 100mg/5mL Tablets: 200mg, 400mg</p>	<p>Do not use if less than 1 month old -Hypovolemia -Severe and unstable asthma -Coagulation defects -Severe liver disease -Renal dysfunction</p>
Diclofenac	<p>Over 6 months of age Short acting/PR: 1 - 1.5mg/kg 8 hourly Slow release: 1.5 mg/kg 12 hourly -Max 3mg/kg/24hrs -Do not exceed 150mg/24 hours -Chart suppositories as whole doses (do not cut suppositories)</p>	<p>Tablet - enteric coated: 25mg Dispersible tablets: 50mg Suppositories: 12.5mg, 25mg, 50mg, 100mg Slow release: 75mg - Do not chew or crush</p>	<p>Do not use if less than 6 months old -Hypovolemia -Severe and unstable asthma -Coagulation defects -Severe liver disease -Renal dysfunction</p>