

## Medical Directive

**Title: Acetaminophen Administration for Treatment of Fever in Paediatric Patients Admitted to the Paediatric Unit**

**Approved by and Date: September 30, 2005**

### Authorized to

Nurses employed on the Paediatric Unit.

### Medical Directive Description

The nurse may administer acetaminophen to an inpatient paediatric patient with a temperature greater than 38.5C according to the following dosage schedule:

- Acetaminophen 10 mg/kg/dose q 4 hours prn, to a maximum of 650 mg/dose for 2 doses
- Can be administered po/pr(per os/per rectum) at the nurses discretion. (see contraindications below)
- MRP must be aware of patient's admission.

### Patient Description Population

Infants, children and adolescents admitted to the Paediatric Unit under the care of a Paediatrician.

### Identify relevant Delegated Control Act or Added Skill associated with this Directive

none

### Specific conditions/circumstances that must be met before the Directive can be initiated and implemented

The nurse has completed an assessment of the patient to rule out the need for physician consultation, prior to administration of acetaminophen.

### Contraindications to initiation and implementation of the Directive

Allergy to acetaminophen

Diagnosed liver disease

Diagnosed Febrile Neutropenia

Age  $\leq$  3 months.

Per Rectum administration with diagnosis of thrombocytopenia or other coagulopathy disease is contraindicated.

### Documentation requirements

On the physician order sheet and the patient's health record: Administration of Acetaminophen for Treatment of Fever in Paediatric Patients Admitted to the Paediatric Unit. Medical Directive may be printed and attached to the chart for documentation purposes. Date, time and signature of the nurse implementing this directive. The nurse will document the administration (MAR) and the outcome related to fever.

### Review/Evaluation Process

#### how often/by who)

Every 2 years by Maternal Child Program

### Related Documents

Lakeridge Health Oshawa Policy for Acetaminophen dosing at 10 mg/Kg for paediatric inpatients.

## Medical Directive Policy

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### REFERENCES:

Hospital for Sick Children's Formulary 2004-2005

Developed by: Paediatric Section in consultation with Paediatric Nurses and Elaine Boeck, CEL, Paeds, NICU

Contact: Elaine Boeck Clinical Education Leader Paeds/NICU

Authorized by: Dr. Rashid Rajah      Date: Nov 9 05

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### Approvals and Signatures

Physician Leader: Dr. R. Rajah	Date: Nov 9 05
Program Leader: Donna Brownlee	Date: Nov 8 05
Program Committee/Council: Donna Brownlee	Date: Nov 9 05
CNPC or PPC: Thom Chambers Chair of CNPC or PPC	Date: Nov 10 05
Final Approval by: Dr. D. Atkinson Chair, MAC	Date: Nov 35 05
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