



# Administration of Pre-Operative Acetaminophen for Paediatric Day Surgery – Medical Directive

Medical Advisory Committee Approved: 24NOV2020

Harmonized

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## Authorizing Prescriber(s)

All anesthesiologists providing care for paediatric surgical patients at Lakeridge Health (LH). A paediatric patient is any patient between 1 to 18 years of age.

## Authorized to Whom

Registered nurses (RN) employed at LH, with the knowledge, skill and judgment to care for paediatric patients in the day surgery departments.

## Patient Description/Population

Paediatric patients registered in the LH Day Surgery Units for any of the following procedures:

- tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy,
- myringotomy and tubes,
- circumcision,
- excision of an extra digit,
- foreign body removal,
- hernia repair,
- breast reduction,
- otoplasty,
- septoplasty,
- arthroscopy

## Order and/or Procedure

Acetaminophen **15 mg/kg/dose (dose maximum 1000mg)** PO x 1 dose 30 to 60 minutes prior to surgery for pain management.

The authorized implementer will:

1. Complete an assessment of the patient, including vital signs (temperature, pulse, respiration rate, blood pressure, and oxygen saturation) and obtain weight in kilograms (kg)
2. Review current medications, including Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) prior to administration of acetaminophen.
3. Verify allergies and intolerances to acetaminophen.
4. Verify with the Most Responsible Provider prior to administration for patients with the following contraindications or considerations:

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- Documented liver dysfunction or disease
  - Documented fever on assessment
  - Known G6PD deficiency
5. Provide the patient, family and/or Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) education regarding the prevention and treatment of pain as it pertains to the surgical procedure.

### Indications to the Implementation of the Directive

Any paediatric patient registered in the Day Surgery program for a surgical procedure listed above.

### Contraindications to the Implementation of the Directive

This directive must not be implemented in any of the following circumstances:

- Consent and/or assent has not been obtained from the patient, family/guardian or SDM
- Surgical procedures not included in the defined list above
- The patient is unable to swallow and does not have an enteral tube in situ.
- The patient has an allergy or intolerance to acetaminophen
- Maximum daily dose of acetaminophen (75 mg/kg/day or 4 g/day, whichever is less) has already been exceeded.

### Consent

The nurse implementing the medical directive must verify consent and/or assent. If a patient or SDM refuses treatment, contact the MRP or delegate to determine plan of care.

### Documentation Requirements

In addition to standard documentation practices, the nurse implementing this medical directive must document the following in the patient's health record:

- The name of this medical directive
- The acetaminophen dose administered
- The name of the implementer
- The date and time (unless documenting electronically)
- Legible signature of implementer including credentials

For example:

July 20, 2020 at 1000 hrs, Acetaminophen 80 mg PO administered as per Administration of Pre – Operative Acetaminophen for Paediatric Day Surgery – Medical Directive, B. Smith RN

### Review/Evaluation Process

Every two years by the Paediatric Program, Surgical Program and the Department of Anaesthesia.



## References

The Hospital of Sick Children E-Formulary 2017.