

Subject: Medication – Paramedic ONLY
IV and Oral Acetaminophen

I. Class

Analgesic and antipyretic.

II. Indications

- A. Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100.4°F)
- B. Mild to moderate pain
- C. Febrile illness in adults or pediatrics

III. Therapeutic Effects

- A. Pain reliever
- B. Fever reducer.

IV. Contraindications

- A. Absolute:
 - 1. Known hypersensitivity or allergy to acetaminophen
 - 2. Severe hepatic impairment or active liver disease
 - 3. Suspected acetaminophen overdose
 - 4. Recent ingestion of maximum daily dose
 - 5. Inability to swallow (PO route)
- B. Relative:
 - None

V. Administration and Dosage Oral Acetaminophen

- A. Adult:
 - 1. 650–1000 mg PO
 - 2. Maximum single EMS dose: 1 Gram
- B. Pediatric:
 - 15 mg/kg PO

VI. Administration and Dosage IV Acetaminophen

- Adult:
 - A. Pain Management:
 - 1. 15mg/kg, IV maximum dose of 1000 mg over 15 minutes.
 - B. Antipyretic:
 - 1. 15mg/kg, IV maximum dose of 1000 mg over 15 minutes.

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Pediatric:

A. Pain Management:

1. 15 mg/kg IV over 15 minutes.

B. Antipyretic:

1. 15 mg/kg IV over 15 minutes

VII. Special Information

- A. Take care when preparing and administering to avoid dosing errors which could result in accidental overdose and death.
- B. The total daily dose of acetaminophen from all sources should not exceed daily limits of 4000 mg for adults and 75mg/kg per day for pediatrics less than 50kg. The daily limit for patients with cirrhosis is 2,000 mg.
- C. Acetaminophen has been associated with cases of acute liver failure, at times resulting in liver transplant and death.
- D. Most of the cases of liver injury are associated with the use of acetaminophen at doses that exceed the recommended maximum daily limits (4000 mg) and often involve more than one acetaminophen-containing product.
- E. In cases of severe renal impairment, longer dosing intervals and a reduced total daily dose of acetaminophen may be warranted.

VIII. Base Orders

Standing Order if no contraindications exist.