

ANTIPYRETIC MEDICATIONS

Detection of fever varies based on the site of body measurement.

FEVER THRESHOLDS

Rectal	Oral	Axillary	Tympanic	Temporal	
>100.4°F	>99.7°F	>99.3°F	>100.0°F	0–2mos	>100.7°F
				3–47mos	>100.3°F
				≥4yrs	>100.1°F

TREATMENT OPTIONS

Generic	Form	Strengths	Children's Dose	Adult Dose
acetaminophen	Ⓡ injection	10mg/mL	0–28days: 12.5mg/kg every 6hrs; max: 50mg/kg/24hrs. Minimum dosing interval: 6hrs. 29days–2yrs: 15mg/kg every 6hrs; max: 60mg/kg/24hrs. Minimum dosing interval: 6hrs. ≥2yrs: 15mg/kg every 6hrs (or 12.5mg/kg every 4hrs); max single dose: 15mg/kg (up to 750mg), max daily dose: 75mg/kg/24hrs (up to 3750mg). Minimum dosing interval: 4hrs.	<50kg: Same as children's (≥2yrs) dose. ≥50kg: 1000mg every 6hrs (or 650mg every 4hrs); max single dose: 1000mg, max daily dose: 4000mg/24hrs. Minimum dosing interval: 4hrs.
	OTC tabs	325mg, 500mg	10–15mg/kg every 4–6 hours Max: <12yrs: 2.6g/day	Regular release: 325–650mg every 4–6hrs Extended release: 1300mg every 8hrs Max: 4g/day ^{1,2}
	chew tabs	80mg		
	oral disintegrating tabs	80mg, 160mg		
	ext-rel tabs	650mg		
	caps	500mg		
	liquid/elixir	160mg/5mL, 500mg/5mL		
	solution	160mg/5mL		
	suspension	160mg/5mL		
	gel syrup	160mg/5mL		
	suppository	80mg, 120mg, 325mg, 650mg		
packet	950mg			
aspirin	OTC tabs	81mg, 325mg, 500mg	≤15yrs: Not recommended. ³	Oral: 325–650mg every 4–6hrs Rectal: 300–600mg every 4–6hrs Max: 4g/day
	chew tabs	75mg, 81mg		
	oral disintegrating tabs	81mg		
	del-rel tabs	81mg, 162mg, 325mg, 500mg, 650mg		
	caplet	325mg, 500mg		
	suppository	60mg, 120mg, 200mg, 300mg, 600mg		
ibuprofen	Ⓡ injection	100mg/mL	<6mos: Not established ≥6mos–<12yrs: 10mg/kg up to max single dose of 400mg every 4–6hrs as needed Max: 40mg/kg or 2.4g/day 12–17yrs: 400mg every 4–6hrs as needed. Max: 2.4g/day	Initially 400mg, then 400mg every 4–6hrs or 100–200mg every 4hrs Max: 3.2g/day
	OTC tabs	100mg, 200mg	6mos–12yrs: <102.5°F (<39°C): 5mg/kg/dose; >102.5°F (>39°C): 10mg/kg/dose every 6–8hrs Max: 40mg/kg/day	200–400mg every 4–6hrs Max: 1.2g/day
	chew tabs	100mg		
	caps	200mg		
	suspension	100mg/5mL, 40mg/mL, 50mg/1.25mL		
naproxen	OTC tabs	220mg	<12yrs: Consult physician.	220mg every 8–12hrs (may give 440mg as 1st dose initially). Max: 660mg/24hrs. Elderly: max 220mg every 12hrs.
	caps			

NOTES

¹ Max dose is 3250mg/day for Tylenol brand regular strength and 3g/day for Tylenol brand extra strength; dosing interval for Tylenol brand extra strength is every 6hrs.

² Max dose is 2g/day for patients with poor nutritional intake, those taking concurrent hepatotoxic medications, or those who drink three or more alcoholic beverages daily.

³ Aspirin may be given to children ≤15yrs of age under physician supervision if influenza or chickenpox can be confidently ruled out (10–15mg/kg every 4–6hrs, max 5 doses/24hrs).

REFERENCES

Adapted from: Feret BM. Chapter 6. Fever. In: Krinsky DL, Berardi RR, Ferreri SP, et al, eds. *Handbook of Nonprescription Drugs: An Interactive Approach to Self-Care, 17th Edition*. Washington, DC: American Pharmacists Association; 2012.

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