

ANTIPYRETIC MEDICATIONS

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

FEVER THRESHOLDS

| Rectal | Oral | Axillary | Tympanic | Temporal | |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| >100.4°F | >99.5°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 | R 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 | | |
| 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 | 81mg | | |
| | oral disintegrating tabs | 81mg | | |
| | del-rel tabs | 81mg, 325mg, 500mg, 650mg | | |
| | caplet | 325mg, 500mg | | |
| | suppository | 60mg, 120mg, 200mg, 300mg, 600mg | | |
| ibuprofen | R 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, 18th Edition*. Washington, DC: American Pharmacists Association; 2015. (Rev. 9/2020)