

# Paracetamol to Prevent and Treat Fever After MenB Vaccination in Babies born before 32 weeks gestation and currently weighing less than 4kg.



<b>TARGET AUDIENCE</b>	All healthcare professionals involved in childhood immunisations
<b>PATIENT GROUP</b>	Neonates and Paediatrics

## Clinical Guidelines Summary

### Dosing Advice

Three regular doses of paracetamol suspension 120mg/5ml (sugar free) are recommended following MenB vaccination.

For babies born before 32 weeks gestation and currently weighing less than 4kg, paracetamol for post vaccination fever should be prescribed by a GP as detailed below.

#### Dosing of paracetamol suspension 120mg/5ml (sugar free)

Weight of baby	Dose 1 Before or as soon as possible after vaccination	Dose 2 <u>Six to eight hours</u> after dose 1	Dose 3 <u>Six to eight hours</u> after dose 2
3.3 – 3.99kg	2ml (48mg)	2ml (48mg)	2ml (48mg)
2.4 – 3.29kg	1.5ml (36mg)	1.5ml (36mg)	1.5ml (36mg)
<2.4kg	1ml (24mg)	1ml (24mg)	1ml (24mg)

### ***Paracetamol to Prevent and Treat Fever After MenB Vaccination in Babies Aged 2-4 Months***

This dosing advice has been prepared in consultation with West of Scotland Neonatal Specialist Pharmacists and takes into account dosing advice in the BNFc and the type of oral syringes available in the community for ease of administration.

## **Clinical Guidelines Summary**

### **Background information**

NHS Public Health Scotland advise giving paracetamol suspension 120mg/5ml (sugar free) at the time of MenB vaccination, or as soon as possible afterwards, in order to reduce the risk of the baby developing a fever. The standard information sheet provided to patients is

[What to expect after immunisation: Babies and children up to 5 years \(publichealthscotland.scot\)](http://publichealthscotland.scot).

This is provided to parents well in advance of immunisation so that supplies of paracetamol can be obtained by parents from the pharmacy or supermarket and this system has worked well for several years.

However, for babies born before 32 weeks gestation and currently weighing less than 4kg, paracetamol for post vaccination fever must be prescribed by a GP according to the baby's weight at the time of vaccination.

In practice, Health Visitors know such children very well and liaise with the baby's GP to arrange a suitable prescription and supply in advance of vaccination. The dosing instructions in this guideline are based on expert recommendation for this specific situation and are designed to aid a suitable supply by giving a guideline which is easily accessible for both Health Visitors and GP Practice teams.

The dosing advice in this guideline is for this specific purpose so may differ to those in the product literature for paracetamol suspension (for the relief of pain and other causes of fever).

## Appendices

### 1. Governance information for Guidance document

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<b>Endorsing Body:</b>	1. NHS LANARKSHIRE VACCINE SERVICE CLINICAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2. NHS LANARKSHIRE AREA DRUGS AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE
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<b>Responsible Person (if different from lead author)</b>	LEAD PHARMACIST, NHS LANARKSHIRE VACCINATION SERVICE

CONSULTATION AND DISTRIBUTION RECORD	
<b>Consultation Process / Stakeholders:</b>	A similar document from GGC was accessed <a href="#">GGC Medicines: Paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination in babies aged 2-4 months</a> and debated at the West of Scotland Paediatric Pharmacist Group.  It was then debated with experienced Health Visitors and the Vaccine Services Clinical Governance Committee which has two experienced GPs on it. This version is summarised to focus on the key information required for this purpose
<b>Distribution</b>	To All Health Visitors and General Practitioners in NHS Lanarkshire

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<b>CHANGE RECORD</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Lead Author</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Version</b>
		<i>e.g. Review, revise and update of policy in line with contemporary professional structures and practice</i>	1