

Using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination

Information for premature and low birth weight babies

This factsheet contains important information about using paracetamol to prevent and treat fever (a high temperature of 38°C or above) in premature or low birth weight babies after they have had their MenB vaccinations. We hope it helps to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact your health visitor, general practitioner (GP) or local pharmacist.

Why do babies need paracetamol after MenB vaccinations?

It is recommended that all babies, including low birth weight and premature babies, receive paracetamol after their MenB vaccinations at two and four months' old. This is because fever can be expected after any vaccination, but it is more common after the MenB vaccination.

When should I give my baby the paracetamol?

A total of three doses of paracetamol are recommended following each MenB vaccination. We have included the timings of when to give your baby the three doses below.

- **First dose** - At the time of the vaccination or as soon as possible afterwards.
- **Second dose** - Four to six hours after the first dose.
- **Third dose** - Four to six hours after the second dose.

If your baby still has a fever after 48 hours, speak to your GP or call NHS 111 for advice.

Which paracetamol product should I use?

Paracetamol is available in two strengths.

- You must only use oral **infant** paracetamol suspension. This is a liquid form for use in babies and young children. It has a strength of **120mg/5ml**. This strength is used to provide the doses specified in the table on the next page and is available to buy over the counter at your local pharmacy.
- The 'junior' suspension is stronger and there is an increased risk of giving too much paracetamol if used.

It is important that you use the correct strength of paracetamol liquid.

How much paracetamol should I give my baby?

Babies who are born prematurely or with a low birth weight may have a different dosage recommendation than is generally advised. Please follow the dose information in the table below, which is based on the baby's weight rather than their age. If you are unsure or have any questions, please speak to the neonatal community outreach team (NCOT), your GP or local pharmacist.

Baby's current weight	Recommended paracetamol dose
Below 2kg	Speak to your GP or local pharmacist for patient-specific dosing advice.
2 to 2.99kg	1.2ml (30mg)
3 to 3.99kg	1.9ml (45mg)
4kg and above	2.5ml (60mg)

Contact us

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us.

Neonatal community outreach team (NCOT)

Telephone: **07766 994816** (Monday to Saturday, 7.30am to 4.30pm)

Useful links

www.healthiertogether.nhs.uk

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