

PROTOCOL FOR: Fever: Nursing Management of the Pediatric Patient with a Fever

- DESIRED
PATIENT OUTCOME:
1. Patient will receive treatment for fever in the E.D. and will have a decrease in fever.
 2. Preliminary assessment in the E.D. will reveal possible etiology of fever.

CLINICAL
ASSESSMENT
AND CARE:

1. Assess the following:
 - a. Duration of fever, presence of fever on arrival
 - b. Treatment of fever prior to arrival
 - c. Associated symptoms (i.e. presence of pain, level of consciousness, respiratory status, hydration status, etc.
 - d. Allergies
 - e. Current medications
 - f. Past medical history including any recent immunizations or history of febrile seizures
 - g. Vital signs including rectal temperature for infants < or = 3 months old
 - h. Weight
2. Remove clothing, blankets from child with fever.
3. Consider seizure precautions for child with high fever (105°F), recent seizure, or history of febrile seizure.
4. Administer antipyretic: Acetaminophen PO or PR 10-15 mg/kg if not given in past 4 hours. (See Acetaminophen Dosage Chart attached.)
5. Consider tepid water sponge bath. Don't allow child to shiver.
6. Establish and administer I.V. fluids per M.D. order.
7. Obtain lab work per M.D. order.
8. Assist with other diagnostic procedures (i.e. lumbar puncture.)
9. Reassess temperature within 1 hour or prior to discharge from E.D.

PATIENT
TEACHING:

1. Provide parent with instructions for care of fever in children printed on Emergency Department Discharge Instruction Sheet.
2. Instruct parent on method for temperature assessment.

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3. Provide parent with specific instructions on administration of antipyretics (i.e. medication, dose, route, frequency.)

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee
Emergency Department Standards Committee
Emergency Department Manager & Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/92

REVISION DATES: 9/96, 10/99, 1/03, 9/05

REVIEW DATE: 2/06, 9/08

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ACETAMINOPHEN DOSAGE CHART

Check Pharmacy for referral.

WEIGHT	AGE	Children's			Adult Tablets Dosage in 325mg/tab	Dose in mg.
		Tablets 80mg/tab	Elixir 160mg/tsp	Drops 100mg/ml		
6-11 lbs.	0-3 months	-	1/4 tsp	.4 ml	-	40
12-17 lbs.	4-11 months	-	1/2 tsp	.8 ml	-	80
18-23 lbs.	11-23 months	1 ½	3/4 tsp	1.2 ml	-	120
24-35 lbs.	2-3 years	2	1 tsp	1.6 ml	-	160
36-47 lbs.	4-5 years	3	1½ tsp	2.4 ml	-	240
48-59 lbs.	6-8 years	4	2 tsp	3.2 ml	1	320
60-71 lbs.	9-10 years	5	2½ tsp	4 ml	1 ¼	400
72-95 lbs.	11-12 years	6	3 tsp	4.8 ml	1 ½	480

To be given every 4 hours, don't exceed 5 doses a day.