



Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen: Guidelines for Parents

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) are over-the-counter pain and fever reducers. Fever is the body's normal response to infections and will usually get better on its own. Treating a fever with these medications can make your child more comfortable, but the infection won't go away faster.

Safety tips

If you give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen, be sure to follow these important guidelines.

Acetaminophen

- Don't give to infants under 2 months old unless instructed by your child's doctor.
- Don't give your child more than 5 doses in 24 hours.
- Check the concentration of medication you have. Concentrated infant drops (80 mg/0.8 mL) are no longer sold. If you still have some at home, they're expired and should be safely discarded. You can drop unwanted medication into secure collection kiosks located in some Kaiser Permanente pharmacies or community sites.

Ibuprofen

- Don't give to infants under 6 months old.
- Don't give your child more than 4 doses in 24 hours.
- Don't give if your child is dehydrated, vomiting, or has kidney problems.

General medication guidelines

Do's

- Carefully read and follow all labels on the package.
- Know how much your child weighs. The correct dose for your child is based on weight (not age).
- Use only the syringe or cup that came with the medication to measure it, not a kitchen spoon. Measure in a well-lit area.
- Call us right away if your baby is under 2 months old and has a rectal temperature of 100.4°F or higher.

Don't's

- Don't exceed the maximum recommended doses.
- Don't switch between giving acetaminophen and ibuprofen without talking to a doctor first. It's easy to accidentally give too much medicine, and it's usually not recommended.
- Don't give aspirin to anyone under age 20.
- Don't give naproxen sodium (Aleve) to children younger than 12 unless prescribed.

See back for dosing guide.

Recommended dosing for children

Acetaminophen (Tylenol)

Weight Age	Infants' Liquid Syrup (Syringe)	Children's Liquid Suspension	Children's Chewable Tablets/ Meltaways	Junior Strength Chewable Tablets/ Meltaways	Adult Tablets
	160 mg/5 mL	160 mg/5 mL	80 mg	160 mg	325 mg
6–11 lbs. 1–5 months**	1.25 mL (40 mg)	1.25 mL (40 mg)			
12–17 lbs. 6–11 months	2.5 mL (80 mg)	2.5 mL (80 mg)			
18–23 lbs. 12–23 months	3.75 mL (120 mg)	3.75 mL (120 mg)			
24–35 lbs. 2–3 years	5.0 mL (160 mg)	5.0 mL (160 mg)	2 tablets (160 mg)		
36–47 lbs. 4–5 years		7.5 mL (240 mg)	3 tablets (240 mg)		
48–59 lbs. 6–8 years		10 mL (320 mg)	4 tablets (320 mg)	2 tablets (320 mg)	1 tablet (325 mg)
60–71 lbs. 9–10 years		12.5 mL (400 mg)	5 tablets (400 mg)	2½ tablets (400 mg)	1 tablet (325 mg)
72–95 lbs. 11 years		15 mL (480 mg)	6 tablets (480 mg)	3 tablets (480 mg)	1.5 tablets (500 mg)
95+ lbs. 12 years & older				4 tablets (640 mg)	1–2 tablets (325–650 mg)

**Don't give acetaminophen to infants under 2 months old unless instructed by your child's doctor.

Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin)

Weight Age	Infants' Drops (Dropper/ Syringe)	Children's Elixir/Liquid	Junior Strength Chewables	Junior Strength Swallow Tablets	Adult Tablets
	50 mg/1.25 mL	100 mg/5 mL	100 mg	100 mg	200 mg
12–17 lbs. 6–11 months	1.25 mL (50 mg)	2.5 mL (50 mg)			
18–23 lbs. 12–23 months	1.875 mL (75 mg)	3.75 mL (75 mg)			
24–35 lbs. 2–3 years	2.5 mL (100 mg)	5.0 mL (100 mg)	1 tablet (100 mg)		
36–47 lbs. 4–5 years		7.5 mL (150 mg)	1½ tablets (150 mg)		
48–59 lbs. 6–8 years		10 mL (200 mg)	2 tablets (200 mg)	2 tablets (200 mg)	
60–71 lbs. 9–10 years		12.5 mL (250 mg)	2½ tablets (250 mg)	2½ tablets (250 mg)	1 tablet (200 mg)
72–95 lbs. 11 years		15 mL (300 mg)	3 tablets (300 mg)	3 tablets (300 mg)	1.5 tablets (300 mg)
96 lbs.+ 12 years and older			4 tablets (400 mg)	4 tablets (400 mg)	2 tablets (400 mg)

This information is not intended to diagnose or to take the place of medical advice or care you receive from your physician or other health care professional. If you have persistent health problems, or if you have additional questions, please consult with your doctor. If you have questions or need more information about your medication, please speak to your pharmacist. Kaiser Permanente does not endorse the medications or products mentioned. Any trade names listed are for easy identification only. Some photos may include models and not actual patients.