

Pediatric Acetaminophen formulation change

The recent changes to the concentration of brand and generic pediatric acetaminophen products have led to several phone calls to poison control centers involving therapeutic errors and patient or health care provider confusion. These products were previously available in a concentration of 80mg per 0.8 ml (500mg per 5ml) in various sizes. Recently the infant acetaminophen products have been reformulated such that they are now equivalent to children's acetaminophen liquid concentrations (160mg/5ml).

As the transition between the differing formulation advances, both concentrations of infant's acetaminophen products may be intermingled on store shelves. During this time of product transition we urge all pharmacists, physicians and nurses to ensure patients and caregivers carefully check product concentration and closely follow dosing instructions either on the package itself or as directed by a health care professional. Patients or caregivers should be counseled to consult their primary care provider or pharmacist if there are any questions or confusion during product purchase or administration.

Should an error occur during administration of any medication, the Cincinnati Drug and Poison Information Center is available to health care providers and/or the general public for consultation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at 1-800-222-1222.