

Appendix 1. Paracetamol suspension 120mg/5ml doses for prophylaxis of post immunisation fever

The Public Health Scotland leaflet 'What to expect after immunisation: Babies and children up to 5 years' states, on supply of paracetamol for prophylaxis of fever post immunisation.

'For very premature babies (born before 32 weeks) and very small babies (less than 4 kg), your GP should prescribe the paracetamol according to the baby's weight at the time of immunisation'.

So for such infants it will be necessary to obtain supply of paracetamol under Patient Specific Direction. In community and primary care this would normally be a GP10 written by the patient's GP.

The table below is intended as a guide to assist nurses and pharmacists advising prescribers.

The doses have been pragmatically derived from the Children's BNF based on the treatment doses for neonates born at less than 32 weeks and reflect the smallest dosage increments readily available in the community setting.

N.B. these doses are also suitable for infants born at any stage of gestation but weighing below 4kg when they present for vaccination.

Weight of infant	Dose of Paracetamol suspension 120mg/5ml	Frequency
<2.4kg	1ml (24mg)	Three doses of paracetamol are required The 1 st dose to be given immediately before or after immunisation then two further doses at an interval of a minimum 6 to 8 hours.
2.4kg to 3.29kg	1.5ml (36mg)	No more than 3 doses in 24 hours.
3.3kg to 3.99kg	2ml (48mg)	This may be repeated if required up to 48 hours after vaccination.
4kg and over	2.5ml (60mg) Paracetamol may be supplied under Minor Ailments or the NHSGCC Paracetamol suspension 120mg/5ml for prophylaxis of post vaccination fever PGD	