

Paracetamol Dosing Advice for Very Premature Infants

- Very premature babies (born before 32 weeks) currently weighing less than 4kg are excluded from supply of paracetamol under this PGD.
- 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 on paracetamol dosages to prescribe for such infants. Dosing is practical and reflects the smallest dosage increments deliverable via oral syringes available in the community setting.

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. No more than 3 doses in 24 hours. This may be repeated if required up to 48 hours after vaccination.
2.4kg to 3.29kg	1.5ml (36mg)	
3.3kg to 3.99kg	2ml (48mg)	
4kg and over	2.5ml (60mg) Paracetamol may be supplied under Public Health Service (PHS) Men B prophylaxis, NHS Pharmacy First Scotland or the NHSGGC Paracetamol suspension 120mg/5ml for prophylaxis of post vaccination fever PGD	

Dosing has been derived from the Children's BNF based on the treatment doses for 'pain, pyrexia with discomfort' in neonates at a corrected gestational age of 32 weeks and above (10-15mg/kg every 6-8 hours as required, maximum 60mg/kg/day in divided doses, note initial dose of 20mg/kg is not required for this indication).