

National Minimum Standards 11: Medication - Administration of non-prescribed paracetamol oral suspension (“Liquid Paracetamol”)

Children’s health needs to be protected at all times. Therefore, children should be able to receive prompt treatment for the relief of pain or high temperature whilst in registered settings, in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions for the administration of Liquid Paracetamol and subject to the consent of the child’s parent/carer.

Conditions relating to each occasion Liquid Paracetamol is administered

In situations where a child becomes unwell whilst at the registered setting, it is most appropriate for the child to be collected by a parent or carer. However, in circumstances where:

- a) there may be a delay in the parent or carer collecting the child or arranging collection by someone else; or
- b) the parent or carer is not immediately contactable,

It is appropriate for the child to be given a **single (age appropriate) dose of Liquid Paracetamol** whilst the child waits to be collected if:

1. the child’s parent or carer has given prior consent to their child being given Liquid Paracetamol;

and either

2. the child’s parent or carer has been contacted;

3. the child’s parent or carer has given consent for the dose of paracetamol to be given;

4. a period of at least 4 hours has passed since the last dose of paracetamol was given to the child; and

5. the parent or carer has undertaken to collect the child from the registered setting as soon as is practicable;

or

6. the registered setting has attempted to contact the child’s parent or carer, but they cannot be contacted;

7. the registered setting has contacted NHS111;

8. a healthcare professional (at NHS111) has advised that it would be appropriate for a dose of Liquid Paracetamol to be given; and

9. the registered setting subsequently makes contact with the child’s parent or carer to arrange for the child to be collected from the registered setting at the earliest opportunity/as soon as is practicable.

In addition to the above, registered settings must continue to adhere to **National Minimum Standard 10.2** which states:

“No child is received if he/she appears to be ill. If children become unwell during their time in the childcare or play setting, care is taken to prevent possible infection of other children and parents are notified as soon as possible.”

It must not be assumed that a child is better after receiving Liquid Paracetamol and in all cases the child should be collected by a parent/carer as soon as is practicable after the child becomes unwell.