

Response provided by Person G following FOI request:

Evidence and rationale for the specific requirements

The guidance defines “Liquid Paracetamol” specifically as *individual 5ml sachets of sugar-free oral suspension containing 120mg of paracetamol per 5ml*.

Please provide any recorded information considered by Welsh Government or CIW which informed the decision to specify:

- a) individual 5ml sachets;
- b) sugar-free oral suspension;
- c) a concentration of 120mg per 5ml; and
- d) a single-dose quantity of 5ml.

This should include, where held:

- clinical or pharmaceutical advice;
- correspondence with NHS Wales, Public Health Wales, NHS 111, pharmacists or other healthcare professionals;
- risk assessments;
- research or evidence reviews;
- internal briefing papers;
- meeting minutes or notes; and
- correspondence concerning alternative formulations, concentrations, packaging or methods of administration.

- a) The reasons for specifying sachets are set out clearly in annex D to the updated standards. The original WGC recommended care providers should use 120mg in 5mL sachets but left open the possibility of using other presentations of liquid paracetamol.

In any case annex D recognises the limitations of a “one size fits all” approach, and states “Registered providers should determine the most appropriate presentation of paracetamol sugar free liquid for their setting.”

- b) The reasons for recommending sugar free medicines are well documented including in the British National Formulary for Children (BNFC) see [Guidance on prescribing | Medicines guidance | BNFC | NICE](#)
- c) Part, full or multiple sachets of paracetamol at a concentration of 120mg per 5mL are suitable for children from the age of 3 months up to the age of 6 years. Paracetamol liquid 250mg in 5mL is not recommended for children under six year of age because it would be impractical and wasteful to expect carers to measure the small doses of higher concentration preparations. The choice of 120mg in 5mL concentration

reflects the appropriate concentration for the most common age groups using regulated childcare in Wales.

- d) Sachets of any concentration are only available in volumes of 5mL. WGC 011 2024 advised a child should be given “a single (age appropriate) dose of Liquid Paracetamol”. This is clearly different to saying “a single 5mL dose” – the emphasis on single reflects the safe minimum dosing interval of at least four hours between doses of paracetamol and the expectation the child is collected from the care provider as soon as is practicable.