

The National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years

Summary: Guidance to support Standard 11: Medication relating to the occasional administration of non-prescribed medication in the form of liquid paracetamol to unwell children in the event of an emergency situation only.

The Welsh Government have been notified by the Care Inspectorate for Wales (CIW) of issues and concerns relating to children's health and well-being within registered childcare and play settings. Due to the need to protect children's health needs to be protected at all times and for where indicated, children to should receive the medicine they need in emergency be able to receive prompt treatment for the relief of pain or high temperature whilst in registered childcare and play settings in accordance with the licensed indications of paracetamol and subject to the consent of the child's parent or guardian, cy situations we have set out guidance below. This guidance describes situations in which the administration of paracetamol liquid¹ is considered acceptable and supplements the current Standard 11 for Medication in National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to 12 years published November 2023, and is effective immediately. The Standard relating to medication will be updated in line with a wider cyclical review and consultation on the NMS in in due course.

In particular these issues and concerns relate to the specific provision of **non-prescribed medication** in the form of liquid paracetamol to children in an emergency situation. This The concerns and issues highlighted by CIW have led to calls for more clarity around on what providers can and can't cannot do in relation to the administration of liquid paracetamol in accordance with Standard 11: Medication. Particular clarification is required regarding and whether non-prescribed liquid paracetamol can be possessed stored and administered to children with when appropriate measures safeguards are in place. On the advice of health professionals, The Welsh Government recommends that registered providers can possess, store and use administer single dose liquid paracetamol in the limited circumstances described in this guidance sachets. The sachets help to minimise the risk of inaccurate dosage and contamination.

Currently, the NMS allows for the provision of prescribed medication for relevant children but does not specifically refer to non-prescribed medication. This circular letter therefore provides updating guidance enabling providers to possess, store and administer non-prescribed liquid paracetamol liquid in emergency situations subject to the following conditions only being met: and as set out below:

¹ For the purposes of this guidance paracetamol liquid refers to individual 5mL sachets of paracetamol suspension each containing 250mg of paracetamol per 5mL, only.

Commented [A1]: This statement is very general should it refer specifically to "regarding the administration of non-prescription medicines in registered childcare and play settings."

Commented [A2]: Sorry not sure of the correct terminology

Commented [A3]: See earlier post, move this to be the first point

Commented [A4]: The law on medicines talks about having a medicine in one's possession

Commented [A5]: I think this is implicit

- The registered childcare or play setting has ~~A~~ a medicine policy which describes the circumstances in which paracetamol may be administered to a child who is attending the setting. ~~=this The policy should~~ must be shared with the parent/carer ~~relating and must set out the~~ to the arrangements and procedures in place ~~for supporting the~~ safe administration of prescribed and non-prescribed medication, including when ~~there is a~~ situations in which there is an urgent need ~~for~~ medical emergency situation whilst relevant children are being cared for at the setting. E.g., in the event of a child having a dangerously high temperature ~~in children.~~

Commented [A6]: Person A / Person B is urgent better than emergency?

- ~~Obtaining prior permission from~~ The child's parents/carers have given permission to enable for the providers to administer ~~liquid~~ paracetamol doses to liquid to the relevant children in the ~~event of an emergency situation only~~ circumstances described in the medicines policy.

- ~~The a~~ Arrangements are in place for the safe storage, administration and record keeping of ~~single doses~~ doses of liquid paracetamol ~~sachets for use/used in~~ accordance with the medicines policy.

- ~~The~~ expiry dates of all ~~homely~~ remedies stocked must be checked regularly (at least every three months), and before every administration. ~~the event of an emergency.~~

- Procedure/information relating to the administration of appropriate dosages for relevant children and how this will be checked and recorded.

- ~~Procedure~~ The provider attempts to contact for contacting a child's parents/carers on each time occasion there is a need for emergency liquid paracetamol to be given paracetamol to be administered.

- Arrangements are in place when for situations in which the provider might not be ~~is un~~ able to make immediate contact with a parent or caregiver after a child falls ill whilst at the setting and in which paracetamol liquid can be administered. ~~or is unable to collect the child immediately. E.g., this may occur when a parent/carer is some distance away from the setting.~~

Commented [A7]: These two are either/or conditions

Commented [A8]: I wasn't sure how this one differed from the point above

- The policy describes the P procedure to be followed when the provider has been advised to administer ~~liquid~~ paracetamol liquid by a medical professional.

Commented [A9]: Need to define what this means - doctor or others as well?

~~It is our view that the~~ The administration of ~~this medication~~ paracetamol liquid is ~~as a~~ last resort. ~~If an emergency~~ reserved for urgent situation in which it is impracticable for a child's parents/carers to presents itself the parent/carer is responsible for collecting their child as soon as is reasonably practicable promptly and only where such administration is in accordance with the guidance set out in this letter ~~is followed by the provider.~~

End.