Paracetamol Policy

(Refer also to "Short term non-prescribed medication")

It is a legal requirement that we have the permission of parents and carers in order for a qualified First Aider to administer any pain relief medication.

A permission to administer paracetamol section is included in the Student Confidential Medical Information form (completed as part of the student Intake Pack) which is kept in Student Services.

Paracetamol is a widely used drug for controlling pain and reducing temperature. Despite its prevalence, it can be very dangerous if taken inappropriately. Overdose requires immediate medical attention.

Protocol for the Administration of Paracetamol Paracetamol must only be dispensed by a qualified First Aider and the following procedure must be adhered to:

- Paracetamol can be administered to children of any age, dose must be suitable for their age and weight.
- Establish the name and age of the student
- Establish consent has been obtained from the parent or guardian of those students under the age of 18, and that the student is willing to take medication
- Establish that paracetamol or a product containing paracetamol has not been taken within the last 4-6 hours
- If paracetamol is administered at any time during the school day parents will be informed of the time of administration and dosage by telephone or text.
- The school will keep records of the administration of paracetamol as for prescribed medication.
- Students must not bring paracetamol (or other types of painkillers) to school for selfadministration.
- Only 4 doses permitted in 24 hours.
- Establish if the patient is taking any other medication. (See contra indications)
- Take with water.
- Record the name, reason for medication, date and dosage in the daily medical log.
- Provide information relating to the time a repeat dose can be administered.

If a Student requires paracetamol between the start of school (7.30am) and 11.30am parent/carer consent must be obtained by telephone. If the parents cannot be contacted paracetamol cannot be administered. Conversation with parent/carer should be recorded in the daily medical log.

The school may administer paracetamol on the day between 11.30am and 4pm where prior written consent has been given.

During Session 3 parent/carer consent must be contacted by telephone. If the parent/carer cannot be contacted paracetamol cannot be administered.

Paracetamol is used for: Mild to moderate pain and pyrexia.

Dose by mouth.

Swallow the tablets whole with a drink of water.

Wait at least 4 hours before taking another dose.

Do not take more than 4 doses in any 24 hour period.

Children aged 10 -15 1x 500mg tablet

Adults and children over 16 2x 500mg tablets

Contra Indication:

Regular use may enhance Warfarin (anticoagulant).

Doperidene, metoclopramide (antiemetic) accelerate absorption, enhancing the effort of Paracetamol.

Cholestyramine (promotes conversion of cholesterol into bile) reduces adsorption therefore Paracetamol must be taken 1 hour before or 4-6 hours after Cholestyramine.

Side effects of Paracetamol:

Rare:

May include rash, blood disorders, acute pancreatitis, liver damage and less frequently renal damage.

Overdose:

- 10-15mg may be fatal for an adult
- Irreversible liver damage may result from a high but not fatal dose
- Despite a lack of significant early symptoms patients who have taken an overdose of paracetamol should be transferred to hospital
- Antidotes can be given within 10-12 hours