



News Advisory

Date: December 1, 2011
To: Health Care Professionals
From: Barbara Insley Crouch, PharmD, MSPH; E. Martin Caravati, MD, MPH, FACEP
Subject: Recent Reformulation of Infant Acetaminophen Products

Recently infant acetaminophen products have been reformulated from 80 mg/0.8 mL to 150 mg/5 mL. Now all children's acetaminophen liquid preparations contain one concentration – 160 mg/5 mL.

These recent changes to brand and generic non-prescription pain acetaminophen-containing pain relievers have led confusion among caregivers and healthcare providers. The Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) has received a number of calls involving therapeutic errors due to this confusion.

As the new formulations are released on the market, it is possible that older products containing the 80 mg/0.8 mL may be intermingled on store shelves with the infant's products containing the new 160mg/5mL formulation. Two types of therapeutic errors could occur:

- 1) A clinician recommends dosing liquid infant acetaminophen drops based on the 80mg/0.8ml while the parent or caregiver uses the "new" 160mg/5ml concentration—the child will receive less than a therapeutic dose (under dose by about 66%).
- 2) A clinician recommends dosing liquid infant acetaminophen drops based on the "new" 160mg/5ml, while the parent or caregiver uses the "old" 80mg/0.8ml formulation—the child is at a risk of acute or chronic overdose of acetaminophen.

During this time of product transition, we urge all healthcare providers to ensure caregivers carefully check product concentration and closely follow dosing instructions either on the package itself or as directed by a health care professional. Prescribers are encouraged to include the appropriate dose in milligrams for the infant as well as the volume to be administered. Patients or caregivers should be counseled to consult their primary care provider or pharmacist if there are any questions or confusion during product purchase or administration.

Should an error occur during administration of any medication, the UPCC is available to health care providers and the general public for consultation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at 1-800-222-1222.

Please feel free to forward this to your colleagues. We look forward to a continued working relationship with you in the future.