



Important Changes to the Most Common Over-the-Counter Medication!

Cold and flu season is here. Before you reach for the bottle of pain reliever, there are some important changes to be aware of. All makers of infant's acetaminophen are changing the amount/concentration of acetaminophen in their containers. This is being done to make the concentration the same in all infant's and children's products and to reduce the chance of medication errors, which can be dangerous and even deadly.

It is **extremely important** if you are dosing medication to small children and infants that you read the label carefully. You may have both older and newer formulations in your home and you need to be aware of which product you are using. The older infant's acetaminophen is three times more concentrated than the new formulation. Overdosing your young child is more likely during this period of transition.

Here are some safety tips:

- Always read the label before using medications. If you don't understand the instructions or dosing--contact your doctor, pharmacist or poison center.
- Give the amount of medicine listed on the label for your child's weight.
- The dosing devices in the infant's formulations are changing. It is important to use the syringe that came with the product and avoid interchanging it with other products.
- Keep the syringe or medicine cup with the medication in its original box.
- For children under two years of age, there is no information on the package regarding how much to give. You will need to get that information from your doctor, pharmacist or poison center.
- Adult dosing will be changing as well. The maximum daily dose for single-ingredient extra strength acetaminophen will go from 8 pills a day (4,000 mg) to 6 pills a day (3,000 mg). The dosing interval will also change from 2 pills every 4-6 hours to 2 pills every 6 hours.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 and immediately talk to a specially-trained Registered Nurse. The poison center is open 24/7 and is a free service to the public.