

Medication Safety Notice.

Several medication errors have been reported recently centred around ibuprofen and paracetamol suspensions and combinations of suspension and tablets.

Please consider the following and in doing so recognise that none of the practitioners who reported these errors set out to or ever expected to make them.



Paracetamol suspension is supplied as 120mg/5ml & 6+ 250mg/5ml

Ibuprofen suspension is supplied as 100mg/5ml and 6+ 200mg/5ml

PR route medications are PR route only and not to be used in combination.

Paracetamol Tablets are supplied as 500mg

Paracetamol IV is supplied as 1000mg/100ml (10mg per 1ml)

Ibuprofen Tablets are supplied as 200mg & 400mg

The maximum paediatric dose shall never exceed the adult dose. The maximum dose for ibuprofen paediatric remains at 400mg.

Please ensure that calculations are performed in milligrams and then correctly converted to millilitre dose by reference to the correct field guide for the correct drug and the formulation available.

In short the errors reported have centred around calculating the millilitre dose of a 100mg/5ml ibuprofen and administering the 200mg/5ml suspension giving a double dose, other variants involved calculating using the formulary for paracetamol suspension and administering a millilitre dose of ibuprofen 200mg/5ml leading to overdose.

Other errors arose when "topping up" doses given by other persons particularly when mixing formulations.

The correct use of the correct field guide and adherence to cross checking of drug and dosage will prevent these errors.

Right Person, Right Drug, Right Reason, Right Dose, Right Route, Right Form, Right Time, Right Documentation.

