

Dear Caregiver

Aug.15, 2022

Accessing acetaminophen and ibuprofen liquid during the nationwide shortage

Pharmacies across Canada are dealing with supply shortages of liquid forms of common fever and pain medicines, acetaminophen and ibuprofen. The following information will help manage the situation until supplies return to normal levels.

If your child requires the liquid form of acetaminophen, you will now require a prescription. It cannot currently be sold over the counter because it has to be repackaged from large bottles into smaller bottles by the pharmacist.

Here's what you need to know:

- If your child is staying overnight at SickKids, they will receive the medication they require for pain or fever.
- If your child visits the hospital and needs to take a liquid form of pain or fever medication when they go home, please ask your health-care provider for a prescription in order to receive it from your local pharmacy.

In addition, you can consider using other forms of acetaminophen or ibuprofen, but speak to your pharmacist or health-care provider first to ensure you give your child the right dose:

- Chewable tablets
- Acetaminophen suppositories (suppositories are not available for ibuprofen).
- Cut or crush a regular tablet

Note: With a proper prescription, the pharmacist is allowed to provide you with the most appropriate product available to treat your child.

The health and safety of our patients is our top priority. We continue to closely monitor this situation.

Thank you for your understanding as we work together to deal with this nationwide supply shortage. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask a member of your health-care team.