



health

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINE LIST, 2023, 5TH EDITION: PARACETAMOL MAXIMUM DOSES AND RECTAL MAINTENANCE DOSE REFERENCE.

An erratum for the Paediatric Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicine List (EML), 2023, 5th edition was issued on 1 December 2023 (*Reference: 2023/12/EDP/01*). Following the release of this erratum, some queries regarding the reference for paracetamol dosing, specifically regarding the maximum doses for rectal and intravenous paracetamol; and the maintenance rectal paracetamol dose.

The erratum outlined that the paracetamol maximum doses for all routes were updated, however only the reference for the oral route was added (South African Medicines Formulary¹).

See dosing table below:

Route	Loading dose	Maintenance dose				Maximum daily dose
		Preterm neonates < 32 weeks	Neonates	Infants 30 days to 3 months	3 months to 12 years	
Oral	20 mg/kg	10 mg/kg 12 hourly (Maximum 30 mg/kg/day)	10 mg/kg 6 to 8 hourly	10 mg/kg 6 hourly	15 mg/kg 6 hourly	Neonates: 60 mg/kg/day Children over 1 month: 90 mg/kg/day (Maximum 4 g/day)
Intravenous	20 mg/kg	10 mg/kg 12 hourly (Maximum 30 mg/kg/day)	10 mg/kg 6 to 8 hourly	10 mg/kg 6 hourly	15 mg/kg 6 hourly	Neonates: 60 mg/kg/day Children over 1 month: 90 mg/kg/day (Maximum 4 g/day)
Rectal	40 mg/kg	Not recommended	30 mg/kg/dose 6 hourly			Maximum 5 g/day

The paracetamol maximum doses for the rectal and intravenous routes were adjusted in line with the Paediatric Drug Doses in Frank Shann.² Additionally the rectal maintenance dose was added in line with this reference.²

¹ South African Medicines Formulary, 14th Edition. Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, and the Health and Medical Publishing Group.

² Frank Shann. Drug Doses 17th Edition. April 2022. Drugdoses.net.

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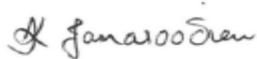
The Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML 2023 Edition has been uploaded to the Knowledge Hub and can be downloaded using the following URL: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatric-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list>

Circular dissemination

Provinces and Healthcare Facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees and all other relevant stakeholders.

Comments may be submitted via e-mail: SAEDP@health.gov.za

Kind regards



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