

Nurse Initiated Medication

Medications should be administered according to this protocol by hospital-accredited staff only. The protocol includes sufficient detail on the medication for the direction and information of nursing staff.

This protocol contains NO AMENDMENTS.

No preparation containing Schedule 4 or Schedule 8 drugs may be included in this Nurse Initiated Protocols

Nurse initiated medications are not to be administered on an **ongoing** basis without a medical review. If, on review, the medication is to continue, it must be ordered on the medication chart by the medical officer.

Drug Name: Paracetamol

Valid until: 30th June 2026

Approved by SCH Drug Committee on: April 2023

Developed by:

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Department: SCH Emergency Dept

Team Members:

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Description of the drug:

- Paracetamol is commonly used within paediatric emergency departments for safe and effective pain relief of mild to moderate pain.
- **Note:** Nurse Initiated Paracetamol is to be read in conjunction with the [Nurse Initiated Analgesia: Clinical Initiatives Nurse - ED - SCH](#)

Expected outcomes:

- Relief of mild-moderate pain (1/10 - 7/10) pain in children.
- **Note:** Nurse Initiated Paracetamol is not to be used for fever alone.

Side effects:

- Nausea, vomiting, and constipation, euphoria, dysphoria, skin rashes and other allergic reactions²

Dosage range:

- **Oral**
 - 15 mg/kg/dose up to every 6 hours
 - Maximum single dose of paracetamol 1 g
- Note: Ideal weight should be used to calculate dose for obese children (refer to [Drug Dosing for Overweight and Obese Patients-SCH Practice Guideline](#))

Common Strengths:

- **Oral**
 - Paracetamol tablets 500mg
 - Paracetamol infant drops 100 mg/mL
 - Paracetamol 48 mg/mL

Route of administration: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral
Indications/patient eligibility criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once Only
Contraindications (including possible interaction with other drug therapy): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allergy to paracetamol• Pain score above 7/10• Fever• Administration of paracetamol within the previous 4 hours• Administration of 4 or more doses in the last 24 hours.• Received maximum daily dose of 60 mg/kg or more in the last 24 hours (not to exceed 4 g). (refer to Paracetamol Overdose - Assessment and Management)• Patients at risk of hepatotoxicity (refer to Paracetamol - SCH).
Restrictions on categories of staff who may administer the medication and/nursing accreditation criteria, including completion of current nursing education package where applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only registered nurses who have been assessed and deemed competent in Nurse Initiated Analgesia may initiate Paracetamol.
Any other information deemed necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil
Process for documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RN must prescribe the dose as per the NSW Health Medication Handling Policy Directive 2022 on the Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart (PINMC) or in the patient's electronic medication administration record (MAR).• The Registered Nurse must Clearly document and sign on the electronic Medication Administration Record (MAR)/ PINMC the date/time and dose given and endorse the order with the words: "Nurse Initiated Medication".• The patient's current weight must be recorded in the patient's electronic medical record (eMR) or on the PINMC.• CIN Protocol entry into FirstNet eMR
Nursing assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Registered Nurse must document an assessment, as set out the Nurse Initiated Analgesia: Clinical Initiatives Nurse - ED - SCH
Observations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hourly re-evaluation of pain and analgesic effectiveness documented in the patient's record
Expectation of the RN initiating the medication is to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clearly document and sign on the medication chart the date/time and dose given
Time/dose limit that a RN can initiate a Nurse Initiated Medication before consultation with a medical officer. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No further doses can be administered without review by a medical office.
References <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick 2023 Nurse Initiated Analgesia: Clinical Initiatives Nurse - ED - SCH2. Australian Medicines Handbook Children's Dosing Companion: Paracetamol [Accessed on 20/04/2023]3. Drug Dosing For Overweight And Obese Patients – SCH - Practice Guideline [Accessed on 20/04/2023]4. Therapeutic Guidelines: Non Opioid analgesics in pain management [Accessed on 20/04/2023]