

## Paracetamol advice for parents of babies being given meningitis B immunisation

- Meningitis B immunisation is thought to be more likely to cause a fever than many other immunisations
- The practice will be following what has been agreed between NHSE, PHE and the BMA
- This is that at 2 and 4 months parents should be advised to give 3 sequential doses of paracetamol beginning at or soon after the time of the immunisation (paracetamol is thought to be less needed at 1y)
- Practice nurses should give a national leaflet to all parents at the time of the first immunisation (and second if it appears such updating might benefit the child)  
See [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/450890/9413-paracetamol-menB-2page-A4-05-web.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/450890/9413-paracetamol-menB-2page-A4-05-web.pdf)
- Please note that the dose recommended for post immunisation pyrexia is 60mg. This is contained in the cBNF, on the paracetamol bottle that parents can buy themselves, and is also emphasised in the parental leaflet.
- Many parents will already have infant paracetamol (120mg/5ml) or be prepared to buy it soon after leaving the practice
- For those parents who would find this difficult, PHE has provided practices (via IMMFORM) with stocks of paracetamol sachets and a dosing syringe.
- Nurses should routinely identify if a parent wants a supply of a single sachet to start the recommended course, and if so, supply it with a syringe when they give the leaflet. The leaflet contains instructions on how to administer paracetamol from the sachet using the syringe.
- Liquid Paracetamol is on the general sales list of medicines that can be sold in an ordinary shop, so nurses should be reassured that they are acting in a similar way, albeit without charging for the supply of medicine.
- The dose for premature babies should be discussed with a GP.