

## Fever: Treatment for Discomfort and Malaise (Pediatric age less than 17 years)

### Site Applicability

All VCH & PHC Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centres

### Practice Level

Profession	Setting	Advanced Skill (requiring additional education)
RN	Emergency & Urgent Care	<b>Nurse Independent Activity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following NIAs have been approved for use as noted in the site applicability above. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration of medication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acetaminophen (one dose only)</li> <li>Ibuprofen (one dose only)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Policy

- VCH & PHC clinicians will follow the BC Children's Hospital NIA/Decision Support tool (DST) developed by the Provincial Health Services Authority (see guideline link below) when providing care for pediatric patients who present with discomfort and malaise associated with fever.
- The use of NIA is supported within VCH/PHC and is defined:
  - Policy: [Nurse Independent Activities \(NIA\) and Nurse-Initiated Protocols \(NIP\)](#).  
Education includes: LearningHub [NIA Course](#)
- Physician/NP orders override the use of NIA.

### Practice Guideline

#### BCCH NIA:

[Treatment of Discomfort and Malaise associated with Fever – Registered Nurse Initiated Activity \(RNIA\)](#) (CM.04.11)

### Documentation

- As per site documentation practices.
- NIA Documentation (in the 'Orders' section of the client chart) – should be in accordance with Health Authority NIA policy:
  - [Nurse Independent Activities \(NIA\) and Nurse-Initiated Protocols \(NIP\)](#).
- Document medication administration as per unit and site practices.

### References

- Autret-Leca, E, Gibb, IA, Goulder, MA. Ibuprofen versus paracetamol in pediatric fever: objective and subjective findings from a randomized blinded study. *Current medical research and opinion*.2007 23(9), 2205-2211, doi:10.1185/030079907X223323
- British Columbia Children's Hospital (2012). *Pediatric drug dosage guidelines* (6th Ed). Vancouver, BC: Author.
- Canadian Pediatric Society (2012). *Caring for kids: common childhood illnesses: fever*. Retrieved from: [http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/fever\\_and\\_temperature\\_taking](http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/fever_and_temperature_taking)
- College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (2009). *Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses: Standards Limits Conditions*. Publication Number 433. British Columbia: Author. Retrieved from: <https://www.crnbc.ca/downloads/433-scope.pdf>.
- College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (2007). *Practice Standard for Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners: Medications*. Pub. No. 408. British Columbia: Author. Retrieved from: <https://www.crnbc.ca/downloads/408.pdf>.

**Note:** This is a **controlled** document for VCH & PHC internal use. Any documents appearing in paper form should always be checked against the electronic version prior to use. The electronic version is always the current version.

- Crook J. (2010). Fever management; evaluating the use of ibuprofen and paracetamol. *Emergency Nursing*.vol. 22 (3).
- Nabulsi MM, Tamim H, Mahfoud Z, Itani M, Sabra R, Chamseddin F, Mikati M. (2006). Alternating ibuprofen and acetaminophen in the treatment of febrile children: a pilot study. *BMC Medicine*, 4:4.
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2007). Clinical guideline 47 - *Feverish illness in children: assessment and initial management in children younger than 5 years*. Retrieved from: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG47>
- Sullivan, J E., Farrar, H C. (2011). Fever and Antipyretic Use in Children. *Pediatrics* 2011;127;580; originally published online February 28, 2011; Retrieved from: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/127/3/580.full.html>

## Developed by

Adopted from [BC Children's Hospital ePOPS \(Electronic Policies, Order Sets, Procedures & Standards\)](#)

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## Reviewed by

Health Authority Medication Advisory Council (HAMAC)

## Endorsed by

VCH: (Regional SharePoint 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

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Regional Pharmacy & Therapeutics Council (VCH-PHC)  
Operations Directors  
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PHC Professional Practice Standards Committee

## Final Sign-off & Approved for Posting by

VP Professional Practice & Chief Clinical Information Officer, VCH  
Professional Practice Standards Committee, PHC

## Date of Approval/Review/Revision

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