

## C. BLS PHARMACOLOGY



### 1. ACETAMINOPHEN

#### a) Indications

Patients ages 2 years and above judged to be in mild to moderate discomfort (e.g., 2–5 on FACES scale)

#### b) Adverse Effects

Not clinically significant

#### c) Precautions

Administration of acetaminophen for mild to moderate pain does not eliminate the need for transport of the patient to the hospital to receive a comprehensive evaluation of the cause of the pain and appropriate definitive treatment.

#### d) Contraindications

- (1) Head Injury
- (2) Hypotension
- (3) Administration of acetaminophen or medications containing acetaminophen within the previous four hours



MANY COMMON COLD PREPARATIONS CONTAIN ACETAMINOPHEN.

- (4) Inability to swallow or take medications by mouth
- (5) Respiratory distress
- (6) Persistent vomiting
- (7) Known or suspected liver disease (including patients suspected of current alcohol ingestion)
- (8) Allergy to acetaminophen
- (9) Patients less than 2 years of age

#### e) Preparations Use Unit Dose Only

(DO NOT USE MULTIDOSE BOTTLE OF LIQUID)

Unit dose 160 mg/5 mL liquid

Unit dose 325 mg pill or tablet

#### f) Dosage

- (1) Less than 2 years of age: Not indicated
- (2) 2–4 years: Unit dose 160 mg/5 mL
- (3) 5–12 years: TWO unit doses of 160 mg/5 mL each for a total of 320 mg/10 mL
- (4) 13 years and above: FOUR unit doses of 160 mg/5 mL each for a total of 640 mg/20 mL OR in a form of 325 mg pill or tablet x2 for a total of 650 mg with sips of water as tolerated by the patient.