

## Dealing with a Medicine Shortage: Children's Liquid Ibuprofen

When there are a lot of viral illnesses spreading among children at the same time (such as RSV and influenza), there may be shortages of certain medicines because of increased demand. This may include an increased demand for children's liquid ibuprofen (Motrin<sup>®</sup>, Advil<sup>®</sup>) as this is used to help manage symptoms. This *Health Facts for You* will give you other treatment options you can use for your child if there is a medicine shortage.

### Does my child need ibuprofen?

You do not always need to treat fevers as they are a normal way for the body to fight infection. If your child has a mild fever but is acting normal, they may not need medicine. If your child is at least 6 months old and has a fever with aches, pains and is feeling unwell, you can treat with ibuprofen. Call your doctor if you are unsure if you should treat your child's fever.

### What are other treatment options?





If your child weighs at least 11 pounds (5 kg), they may be able to use a solid tablet form of ibuprofen instead of liquid. You may need to cut the tablets into halves or quarters using a pill splitter or a sharp knife.

The chart below will help you figure out the right dose. Make sure you are using the **200 mg tablets** (not the capsules or gel caps!). Ask a pharmacist for help finding the right tablets.

### How do I give the ibuprofen tablets?

Tablets can be swallowed whole, chewed, or crushed. You can mix crushed tablets in a small amount of soft food (like applesauce or pudding) if this helps your child swallow the medicine. Make sure your child eats or drinks food or milk with it to help prevent upset stomach. Repeat doses every 6 to 8 hours if needed.

Child's Weight		Ibuprofen Dose	Ibuprofen Product*	How to Make This
Kilograms (Kg)	Pounds (lbs)			
5 to 9.4	11 to 20	50 mg	200 mg round tablets	¼ of a 200 mg tablet
9.5 to 16.3	21 to 35	100 mg	200 mg round tablets	½ of a 200 mg tablet
16.4 to 21.7	36 to 47	150 mg	200 mg round tablets	¾ of a 200 mg tablet
21.8 to 27.2	48 to 59	200 mg	200 mg tablets	200 mg tablet
27.3 to 32.6	60 to 71	250 mg	200 mg round tablets	1 and ¼ of a 200 mg tablet
32.7 to 43.2	72 to 95	300 mg	200 mg round tablets	1 and ½ of a 200 mg tablet
43.3 and above	96 and above	400 mg	200 mg tablets	Two 200 mg tablets

One Half (1/2) Tablet	One Quarter (1/4) Tablet	Three Quarters (3/4) Tablet
 OR 		

\*Round tablets are easier to cut into equal-size pieces, especially for quarter (1/4) tablets. Scored tablets that are not round work well to cut in half (1/2) but not as well to cut into quarters (1/4).

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 12/2022 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#8267.