

Tuolumne County
Emergency Medical Services Agency

Title: Administration of Acetaminophen

Medical Director Signature: on file

EMS Coordinator Signature: on file

EMS Policy No. 552.89
Creation Date: 11/09/2016
Revision Date: 11/16/2022
Review Date: 2025

I) Purpose

To authorize EMTs and Paramedics to administer acetaminophen orally during scheduled interfacility transport. To authorize Paramedic to administer acetaminophen in the prehospital setting.

II) Authority

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100144, 100145, 100146 and 100063.

III) Policy

A) Medication Information

1) Indications

(a) Interfacility Transfer

- (i) Fever reduction
- (ii) Per MD orders

(b) Prehospital Use

- (i) Mild to moderate pain
- (ii) Adjunct to other analgesics for severe pain

2) Contraindications

(a) Hypersensitivity/allergy

(b) Severe liver disease, chronic alcoholism or other hepatic impairment including transplant

3) Action: not precisely known; however, it is thought to be centrally mediated.

- (a) Onset: 10-15 minutes
- (b) Peak: 1 hour
- (c) Duration 4-6 hours

4) Adverse Reactions/Side Effects

- (a) Nausea and Vomiting
- (b) Constipation
- (c) Headache
- (d) Insomnia
- (e) Puritis

5) Dosages and Routes

(a) Adults and Pediatric Pain Management:

- (i) 15 mg/kg oral suspension, IV infusion
- (ii) Administer over 15-minutes
- (iii) Total Max dose 1,000
- (iv) No Repeat
- (v) For pediatric dose calculation use length based pediatric resuscitation tape to determine weight unless exact weight is known.

- (b) Useful for patients with renal insufficiency, pediatrics, and geriatrics who are not candidates for ketorolac.
- B) Training
 - 1) Topics to be covered
 - (a) Indications
 - (b) Contraindications
 - (c) Actions
 - (d) Adverse Reactions/Side Effects
 - (e) Routes
 - 2) Total time related to the above topics, including lecture, skills demonstration and practice, written and skills exam shall be no less than one (1) hour.
 - 3) Course objectives specific to additional scope items. At the end of the training participants will be able to:
 - (a) Identify actions, indications, contraindications, adverse effects, administration guidelines, and precautions of Acetaminophen administration
 - (b) Demonstrate basic competency in administering Acetaminophen.
 - (c) Appropriately identify patients that meet Acetaminophen administration criteria.
- C) Interfacility Use
 - 1) Procedure
 - (a) This procedure shall only be performed by EMTs and Paramedics with training in the uses, indications, contraindication, dosage, and untoward effects of acetaminophen.
 - (b) This procedure shall only be performed by EMTs with signed transfer order and with direct on-line control with the transferring physician or the base physician if the transferring physician is not available.
 - (c) This procedure shall only be performed by Paramedics with signed transfer order.
 - (d) Signed transfer orders from the transferring physician must be obtained prior to transport. Transfer orders must provide for the oral administration of acetaminophen during transport.
 - (e) EMTs must confirm order with the transferring physician or the base physician, including dosage, just prior to administration.
 - (i) Vital signs are to be monitored, including temperature, as indicated in the transfer orders, not less frequently than every 30 minutes.
- D) Prehospital Use
 - 1) Prehospital Use of Acetaminophen **shall not** be used by EMTs and is only approved for paramedic use.
- E) Continuous Quality Improvement
 - 1) Prehospital Use
 - (a) All Acetaminophen administrations will undergo review by provider agency and the TCEMSA CQI committee. Standard data elements shall be reported.
 - 2) Specific review for use of Acetaminophen will include
 - (a) Primary and Secondary Impression
 - (b) Patient Age
 - (c) Time of Injury
 - (d) Dose and time Acetaminophen administered
 - (e) Pre and post Acetaminophen vital signs
 - (f) Pre and post pain severity evaluation

- (g) Narrative detail supporting Acetaminophen administration
 - (h) Patient disposition
- 3) Interfacility Transfers
- (a) All interfacility transfers in which acetaminophen was administered will undergo review by provider agency.
 - (b) Results of reviews shall be communicated in monthly report format from the provider agency to the EMS Medical Director.
 - (c) Prior to administering acetaminophen EMTs and Paramedics must complete an acetaminophen administration class and pass a written exam approved by the EMS Medical Director.