

## 2.7P Fever (>101.5°F/38.5°C) Pediatric

### EMT/ADVANCED-EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

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- Routine Patient Care.
- Obtain temperature—rectal temperature preferred in infants < 3 months.
- Passive cooling; remove excessive clothing/bundling.
- For temperatures >101.5°F (38.5°C):
  - If acetaminophen was taken more than 4 hours ago:
    - Consider administering acetaminophen per [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A3](#) oral (Rectal administration is Paramedic only).
  - If acetaminophen was taken within the last 4 hours:
    - Consider ibuprofen per [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A3](#) oral (contraindicated in infants under 6 months of age).

### EMT/ADVANCED-EMT/PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

X

- May repeat acetaminophen dose every 4 hours (not to exceed 6 doses in 24 hours).
- May repeat ibuprofen dose every 6 hours (not to exceed 4 doses in 24 hours).



Avoid Ibuprofen in patients with NSAID allergy, aspirin-sensitive asthma, or renal insufficiency

#### History:

The following symptoms, when associated with a fever, suggest a more serious illness:

- |                                        |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| • Persistent vomiting                  | • Severe headache                                   |
| • Difficulty breathing                 | • Unusual sensitivity to bright light               |
| • Chest pain                           | • Severe swelling of the throat                     |
| • Extreme listlessness or irritability | • Stiff neck and pain when the head is bent forward |
| • Abdominal pain                       | • Unusual skin rash                                 |
| • Pain when urinating                  | • Confusion                                         |

For patients who refuse transport, urge caregivers to observe for signs of serious illness, encourage appropriate fluid intake, and safely store antipyretics.

#### PEARLS:

- Avoid inducing shivering.
- The primary goal of treating fever is increased comfort rather than normalization of body temperature. Fever is a physiologic mechanism that helps fight infection. There is no evidence that fever worsens illness or causes long-term neurologic complications.
- Children should never take aspirin.
- Infrared temporal thermometers are more accurate than tympanic thermometers.