



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Pediatric Analgesic (Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen) Shortage

Accessing Pain and Fever Relief for Children

As reported in the national media, there is an ongoing shortage of commercial non-prescription acetaminophen and ibuprofen products. Both are effective medications for pain and fever relief that can be used in infants and youth.

The shortage is due to an unprecedented demand related to spikes in various respiratory illnesses. Although production and distribution have increased, it may take several months to return to normal supply levels. As part of several actions to address the situation, Health Canada has announced that imported supplies will be available in pharmacies to help build up the supply.

First Nations Health Benefits and Services has enabled temporary coverage of compounded liquid acetaminophen and ibuprofen products for families with young children in need of these medications.

Preparing for flu season

- **Be proactive.** The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) encourages families and health care providers to discuss safe use and supplies of acetaminophen and/or ibuprofen in preparation for cold and flu season.
- **Talk to your healthcare provider.** They will help you determine an accessible option best suited for your family's needs.

First Nations Health Benefits and Services

- FNHA has enabled temporary coverage of compounded acetaminophen and ibuprofen:
 - 1) Speak with your pharmacist about accessing covered acetaminophen and ibuprofen products. If they do not have a supply of commercially available products, they may be able to provide a covered compounded product. Compounded acetaminophen and ibuprofen liquids are temporarily listed on Plan W.
 - 2) If the pharmacist is not able to provide a covered product, they may be able to inform you when commercial supply will be available or direct you to a pharmacy that is able to provide a compounded supply.

If you need additional information, please email: healthbenefits@fnha.ca or call 1-855-550-5454