

Acetaminophen Injection

Criteria for Use

May 2021

VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services, Medical Advisory Panel, and VISN Pharmacist Executives

The following recommendations are based on medical evidence, clinician input, and expert opinion. The content of the document is dynamic and will be revised as new information becomes available. The purpose of this document is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, to standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and to promote cost-effective drug prescribing. THE CLINICIAN SHOULD USE THIS GUIDANCE AND INTERPRET IT IN THE CLINICAL CONTEXT OF THE INDIVIDUAL PATIENT. INDIVIDUAL CASES THAT ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE EXCLUSION AND INCLUSION CRITERIA SHOULD BE ADJUDICATED AT THE LOCAL FACILITY ACCORDING TO THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES OF ITS P&T COMMITTEE AND PHARMACY SERVICES.

The Product Information should be consulted for detailed prescribing information.

See the VA National PBM-MAP-VPE Monograph on this drug at the [PBM INTERnet](#) or [PBM INTRAnet](#) site for further information.

Exclusion Criteria *If the answer to ANY item below is met, then the patient should NOT receive acetaminophen for injection*

- Severe hepatic impairment or severe active liver disease
- Hypersensitivity to acetaminophen or any components of the injectable formulation

Inclusion Criteria

- Requires management of acute postoperative pain and either patient is medically unable to take analgesics orally (NPO) or is unlikely to have sufficient gastrointestinal absorption to achieve benefit from ingested acetaminophen
 - Patients with one or more hours available before the induction of general anesthesia for intraabdominal or oropharyngeal surgery (and likely adequate gastrointestinal absorption) should be preferentially prescribed ingestible oral liquid acetaminophen
 - Patients having non-abdominal or non-oropharyngeal surgery and likely adequate gastrointestinal absorption may be given acetaminophen oral formulations at any time before induction of general anesthesia.

OR

- Requires management of acute pain or management of fever in the non-surgical setting and patient is medically unable to take analgesics orally (NPO) or is unlikely to have sufficient gastrointestinal absorption to achieve benefit from ingested acetaminophen AND (for pain control only) IV/IM ketorolac is contraindicated.
 - Patients with difficulty swallowing but likely to have adequate gastrointestinal absorption may be given oral liquid acetaminophen or ibuprofen suspension unless contraindicated.

Prepared: May 2021. Previous Version: December 2012. Contact: Mitchell Nazario, PharmD, National Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager, VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (12 PBM)
