

MEDICATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DIABETES

- COLDS/FLU:** Health Canada has released important new information regarding the use of over-the-counter cough and cold medicines for children. Examples of these products include: Benylin, Sudafed, Robitussin, and Tylenol for Colds. All products will be labelled with correct age guidelines and dosing information as of Fall 2009. Until that time Health Canada advises the following: Do not use over-the-counter cough and cold medicines in children under 6 years of age. In children 6 and over, always follow dosing instructions very carefully and ask your doctor/pharmacist if you have any questions about over-the-counter cough and cold medicines. Never give children medicine labelled only for adults. Call Health Canada with any inquiries at 1-866-225-0709.
- FEVER, SORE THROAT, PAIN:** Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (e.g. Motrin®) liquid or tablets may be used as directed on the bottle for age. DO NOT use aspirin in children!
- ALLERGIES:** Non-drowsy antihistamines [e.g. loratadine (Claritin®), cetirizine (Reactine®), fexofenadine (Allegra®), and desloratadine (Aerius®)] may be used for allergy symptoms (not colds) in children 6 years of age and older. Consult your doctor before giving any over-the-counter allergy medications to children under 6 years old.
- WARTS:** Compound W® and Duo-Film® may be used safely in children with diabetes. (Directions may indicate not to use, but it may be used in children.)
- PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS:** All prescription medication may be used as directed by your family doctor. Although the sugar content in liquid antibiotics is more than in pills, it is not sufficient to cause significant changes in blood sugar control. **FINISH ALL ANTIBIOTICS!**
- PREDNISONE:** If your child has been prescribed prednisone, the blood sugar levels may increase. If you notice this, please call the diabetes clinic for an insulin adjustment.

Questions about your prescribed medications should be directed to the prescribing doctor. If your child has any conditions that are not diabetes-related, your family doctor or pediatrician should handle these.