


MEDICATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DIABETES

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! **Note:** some continuous glucose monitor readings may be falsely elevated with acetaminophen.

COLDS/FLU: Many cold medications also contain decongestants, which can elevate blood glucose. Drowsiness may also be a side effect of many cold medications, which may decrease your child's ability to recognize low blood glucose. 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 use more than one product at the same time unless advised by your doctor.

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.

See also: www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/over_the_counter_drugs.