

**NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT**  
**Drug Shortage Alert: Pediatric Antipyretics and Amoxicillin**  
December 13, 2022

**Summary**

The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory due to reported shortages of pediatric formulations of acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and amoxicillin suspensions statewide.

The purpose of this communication is to notify providers and pharmacists regarding alternative treatment options and key patient education points.

**Recommendations**

1. **Compounding of beta-lactam oral antibiotic suspensions:** The FDA has released a [guidance document](#) allowing for the compounding of beta-lactam oral antibiotic suspensions that are on the FDA drug shortage list. Prescribers may send prescriptions to compounding pharmacies for pediatric amoxicillin suspensions.
  - a. Please note the FDA has not authorized compounding of commercially available acetaminophen formulations at this time.
2. **Use of amoxicillin tablets and capsules:** Prescribers should consider amoxicillin tablets and capsules for children who do not require an amoxicillin suspension. Immediate release formulations may be crushed (or opened) and added to food (i.e. applesauce) or liquids (i.e. milk).
  - a. Extended-release formulations should not be cut or crushed.
3. **Prevention of stockpiling:** Pharmacies should consider placing quantity restrictions for purchases of children's OTC acetaminophen and ibuprofen formulations to prevent consumer stockpiling.
4. **Backorders:** Pharmacists should place backorders with their wholesale drug distributors. When products are backordered, wholesalers will allocate product to customers based on a percentage of their historical volume. Clients who have backorders in place are prioritized upon receipt of additional inventory.
  - a. Regularly monitoring your backorder list is recommended as items that have not shipped are removed by the wholesale distributor after a preset timeframe.
  - b. It is advisable to place additional backorders instead of editing quantities on existing backorders. Backorders that are edited are treated as new backorders.

## Patient Education

1. **Prevention methods:** Continue to educate patients about practicing everyday prevention methods, vaccination against the flu and COVID-19, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, using face masks, and hand washing.
2. **Aspirin warning:** During shortages of acetaminophen and ibuprofen, parents should receive education not to administer aspirin to their children. Aspirin use in pediatrics is linked with the risk of Reye’s syndrome, which is harmful to the brain and liver.
3. **Non-pharmacologic interventions:** Parents who are unable to obtain acetaminophen or ibuprofen can reduce a fever by bathing the child in lukewarm water, ensuring they are well hydrated, dressing them in light clothing, and giving them popsicles.
4. **When to seek medical attention:** Parents should receive education regarding when a child’s fever requires professional medical evaluation. [The National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness “Fever And your Child” educational handout](#) is an excellent resource for parents.

Age	When to seek professional medical attention
3 months (12 weeks) or less	100.4°F or higher
3-6 months (12-24 weeks)	102.5°F or higher
6 months (24 weeks) or older	104°F or higher
2 years old or less	Any fever that lasts for more than 24 hours
Any age	Fever that lasts for more than 3 days OR fever that repeatedly rises above 104F

## Resources

1. Compounding Certain Beta-Lactam Products in Shortage Under Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act Immediately in Effect Guidance for Industry  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/FDA-2022-D-2922-0002>
2. FDAs Drug Shortages: [www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/default.htm)
  - a. You can sign up for email alerts regarding drug shortages at:  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFDA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USFDA\\_64](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFDA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USFDA_64)
3. National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness “Fever And your Child” Education Guide.
  - a. <https://downloads.aap.org/DOCHW/FeverAndYourChild.pdf>

***New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjz/10b2> Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.***