

# THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PRESCRIBING MEDICATIONS THAT CONTAIN ACETAMINOPHEN

Is Your Patients' Health Being Compromised?



BASF Pharma

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## Is Your Patients' Health Being Compromised?

Acetaminophen is one of the most widely prescribed drugs in the United States.<sup>1</sup> It is used to relieve pain and to reduce fever. However, even dosage levels that are considered safe can be too much in someone who is at risk of toxic effects.<sup>2</sup>

Acetaminophen poisoning is the most common drug-induced injury to the liver, often leading to hepatic failure.<sup>2</sup> There are several risk factors that may predispose your patients to hepatotoxicity: hepatitis, cirrhosis, chronic alcohol use, and fasting. Use of microsomal-inducing agents like barbiturates, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin, and phenobarbital also greatly increase risk.<sup>2</sup>

With more than 200 formulations containing acetaminophen, it is little wonder that patients may

ingest more than their required dosage. The foremost brand, Tylenol®, is an over-the-counter (OTC) product that carries a warning label about ingestion of more than eight 500-mg tablets in a 24-hour period.<sup>3</sup> **The maximum recommended daily dose of acetaminophen is 4000 mg (or 4 g).**<sup>3</sup>

Since too much acetaminophen or the misuse of it can result in potentially serious side effects for your patients, you should be familiar with all the products that contain it. Check the medications you prescribe with the list inside. *Accidental acetaminophen overdose is not an uncommon occurrence.* Therefore, being aware of other products containing acetaminophen that your patients may be taking is the best way to avoid complications.

# PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS CONTAINING ACETAMINOPHEN\*

Drug Name	Ingredients	Maximum Recommended 24-Hour No. of Doses	Maximum 24-Hour Acetaminophen Dose
Darvocet-N® 50 Tablets	Propoxyphene napsylate 50 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	12 tablets	3900 mg
Darvocet-N® 100 Tablets	Propoxyphene napsylate 100 mg Acetaminophen 650 mg	6 tablets	3900 mg
Esgic® Tablets or Capsules	Butalbital 50 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg Caffeine 40 mg	6 tablets 6 capsules	1950 mg
Esgic-Plus™ Tablets	Butalbital 50 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg Caffeine 40 mg	6 tablets	3000 mg
Fioricet® Tablets	Butalbital 50 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg Caffeine 40 mg	6 tablets	1950 mg
Fioricet® With Codeine Capsules	Codeine phosphate 30 mg Butalbital 50 mg Caffeine 40 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	6 capsules	1950 mg
Hycomine® Compound Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 5 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg Phenylephrine hydrochloride 10 mg Acetaminophen 250 mg Caffeine 30 mg	Adults: 4 tablets Children (6-12): 2 tablets	Adults: 1000 mg Children: 500 mg
Hydrocet® Capsules	Hydrocodone bitartrate 5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	8 capsules	4000 mg
Lorcet®-HD Capsules	Hydrocodone bitartrate 5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	8 capsules	4000 mg
Lorcet® 10/650 Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 10 mg Acetaminophen 650 mg	6 tablets	3900 mg
Lortab® 2.5/500 Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 2.5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	8 tablets	4000 mg
Lortab® 5/500 Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	8 tablets	4000 mg
Lortab® 7.5/500 Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 7.5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	6 tablets	3000 mg
Lortab® 10/500 Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 10 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	6 tablets	3000 mg
Lortab® Elixir	Hydrocodone bitartrate 2.5 mg/5 mL Acetaminophen 167 mg/5mL	6 tbsp	1002 mg
Midrin® Capsules	Isometheptene mucate 65 mg Dichloralphenazone 100 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	10 capsules	3250 mg
Norco® Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 10 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	6 tablets	1950 mg
Percocet® Tablets	Oxycodone hydrochloride 5 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	4 tablets	1300 mg
Phenaphen® with Codeine No. 3 Capsules	Acetaminophen 325 mg Codeine phosphate 30 mg	12 capsules	3900 mg

# PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS CONTAINING ACETAMINOPHEN\* (cont)

Drug Name	Ingredients	Maximum Recommended 24-Hour No. of Doses	Maximum 24-Hour Acetaminophen Dose
Phrenilin® Forte Capsules	Butalbital 50 mg Acetaminophen 650 mg	6 capsules	3900 mg
Phrenilin® Tablets	Butalbital 50 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	6 tablets	1950 mg
Roxicet™ Tablets	Oxycodone hydrochloride 5 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	4 tablets	1300 mg
Roxicet™ 5/500 Caplets	Oxycodone hydrochloride 5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	4 caplets	2000 mg
Roxicet™ Oral Solution	Oxycodone hydrochloride 5 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg Alcohol 0.4%	20 mL qd	1300 mg
Sedapap® Tablets 50/650	Butalbital 50 mg Acetaminophen 650 mg	6 tablets	3900 mg
Talacen® Caplets	Pentazocine hydrochloride 25 mg Acetaminophen 650 mg	6 caplets	3900 mg
Tylenol® with Codeine No. 2 Tablets	Codeine phosphate 15 mg Acetaminophen 300 mg Sodium metabisulfite	6 tablets	1800 mg
Tylenol® with Codeine No. 3 Tablets	Codeine phosphate 30 mg Acetaminophen 300 mg Sodium metabisulfite	6 tablets	1800 mg
Tylenol® with Codeine No. 4 Tablets	Codeine phosphate 60 mg Acetaminophen 300 mg Sodium metabisulfite	6 tablets	1800 mg
Tylenol® with Codeine Elixir	Codeine phosphate 12 mg/5 mL Acetaminophen 120 mg/5 mL Alcohol 7%	Adults: 6 tbsp Children (7-12): 8 tsp Children (3-6): 3-4 tsp	2160 mg 960 mg 360 mg - 480 mg
Tylox™ Capsules	Oxycodone hydrochloride 5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	4 capsules	2000 mg
Vicodin® Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 5 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	8 tablets	4000 mg
Vicodin ES® Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 7.5 mg Acetaminophen 750 mg	5 tablets	3750 mg
Vicodin HP® Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 10 mg Acetaminophen 660 mg	6 tablets	3960 mg
Wygesic® Tablets	Propoxyphene hydrochloride 65 mg Acetaminophen 650 mg	6 tablets	3900 mg
Zydone® Capsules	Hydrocodone bitartrate 10 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	8 capsules	4000 mg
Zydone® Tablets	Hydrocodone bitartrate 10 mg Acetaminophen 400 mg	8 tablets	3200 mg

\*Important note: Not a complete list. Other prescription products may contain acetaminophen.

# NONPRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS CONTAINING ACETAMINOPHEN\*

## COLD AND FLU MEDICATIONS

Drug Name	Ingredients	Maximum Recommended 24-Hour No. of Doses	Maximum 24-Hour Acetaminophen Dose
Alka-Seltzer Plus® Cold & Cough family of medicines	Acetaminophen 325 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 10 mg	8 softgels	2600 mg
Benadryl® Allergy / Cold Tablets	Diphenhydramine HCl 12.5 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 caplets or gelscaps	4000 mg
Children's Cepacol® Sore Throat Formula liquids	Acetaminophen USP 160 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl USP 15 mg	Children (2-5): 4 tsp Children (6-11): 8 tsp Children (12+): 16 tsp	640 mg 1280 mg 2560 mg
Comtrex® Deep Chest Cold & Congestion Relief Liquigels	Acetaminophen 325 mg Guaifenesin 200 mg Phenylpropranolamine HCl 12.5 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 10 mg	Adults and children (12+) 12 liquigels	3900 mg
Comtrex® Maximum-Strength Multi-Symptom Acute Head Cold & Sinus Pressure Relief Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Brompheniramine maleate 2 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 tablets	4000 mg
Contact® Severe Cold & Flu Caplets Maximum Strength	Phenylpropranolamine HCl 12.5 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 15 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 caplets	4000 mg
Coricidin D® Decongestant Tablets	Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg Phenylpropranolamine HCl 12.5 mg Acetaminophen 325 mg	Children (6-12): 5 tablets Adults and children (12+): 12 tablets	1625 mg 3900 mg
Coricidin® HBP Cold & Flu Tablets	Acetaminophen 325 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg	Children (6-12): 5 tablets Adults and children (12+): 12 tablets	1625 mg 3900 mg
Coricidin® HBP Nighttime Cold & Cough Liquid	Acetaminophen 325 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 12.5 mg	Children (6-12): 5 tbsp Adults and children (12+): 12 tbsp	1625 mg 3900 mg
Dimetapp® Cold & Fever Suspension	Acetaminophen USP 160 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl USP 15 mg Brompheniramine maleate USP 1 mg	Children (6-12): 8 tsp	1280 mg
Drixoral® Cold & Flu Extended-Release Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Dexbrompheniramine maleate 3 mg Pseudoephedrine sulphate 60 mg	4 tablets	2000 mg
Robitussin® Cold, Cough & Flu Liqui-Gel medicines	Acetaminophen 250 mg Guaifenesin 100 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 10 mg	Children (6-12): 1 softgel Adults and children (12+): 8 softgels	250 mg 2000 mg
Sudafed® Severe Cold & Cough medicines	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 15 mg	8 caplets or liquicaps	4000 mg
Theraflu® Maximum Strength Nighttime Flu, Cold, & Cough Hot Liquid & Caplets	Acetaminophen 1000 mg (liquid) 500 mg (caplets) Dextromethorphan HBr 30 mg (liquid) 15 mg (caplets) Pseudoephedrine HCl 60 mg (liquid) 30 mg (caplets) Chlorpheniramine maleate 4 mg (liquid) 2 mg (caplets)	Adults and children (12+): 4 packets 8 caplets	4000 mg
Theraflu® Flu, Cold, & Cough medicines	Acetaminophen 650 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 60 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 4 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 20 mg	Adults and children (12+): 4 packets	2600 mg

\*Important note: Not a complete list. Other OTC products may contain acetaminophen.

# NONPRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS CONTAINING ACETAMINOPHEN\* (cont)

## COLD AND FLU MEDICATIONS (cont)

Drug Name	Ingredients	Maximum Recommended 24-Hour No. of Doses	Maximum 24-Hour Acetaminophen Dose
Triaminic® Severe Cold & Fever medicines	Acetaminophen USP 160 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl USP 15 mg Dextromethorphan HBr USP 7.5 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate USP 1 mg	Children (6-12): 8 tsp Adults and children (12+): 16 tsp	1280 mg 2560 mg
Triaminicin® Tablets	Acetaminophen 650 mg Phenylpropanolamine HCl 25 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 4 mg	Adults and children (12+): 6 tablets	3900 mg
Children's Tylenol® Cold and Flu medicines	Acetaminophen 80 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 0.5 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 2.5 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 7.5 mg	4 doses	320 mg
Infants' Tylenol® Cold medicines	Acetaminophen 160 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 15 mg	4 dropperfuls	640 mg
Tylenol® Cold medications / Tylenol® Flu medications	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 25 mg	12 tablets	6000 mg
Tylenol® Flu Nighttime Maximum Strength Gelcaps	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 25 mg	8 gelcaps	4000 mg
Vicks® 44M Cough, Cold & Flu Relief	Acetaminophen 650 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 30 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 60 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 4 mg	4 doses	2600 mg
Vicks® DayQuil medicines	Acetaminophen 500 mg (2 softgels) 650 mg (2 tbsp liquid) Pseudoephedrine HCl 60 mg Dextromethorphan HBr 20 mg	Children (6-11): 4 tbsp or 4 softgels Adults and children (12+): 8 tbsp or 8 softgels	1000-2000 mg (softgels) 1300-2600 mg (liquid)
Vicks® NyQuil medicines	Doxylamine succinate 6.25 mg (softgel) 13.5 mg (2 tbsp liquid) Acetaminophen 250 mg (softgel) 1000 mg (2 tbsp liquid) Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg (softgel) 60 mg (2 tbsp liquid) Dextromethorphan HBr 10 mg (softgel) 30 mg (2 tbsp liquid)	8 softgels or tbsp	2000 - 4000 mg

## PAIN RELIEVERS

Aspirin Free Excedrin® Geltabs and Caplets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Caffeine 65 mg	8 geltabs or caplets	4000 mg
Excedrin® Extra-Strength Tablets, Geltabs, & Caplets	Acetaminophen 250 mg Aspirin 250 mg Caffeine 65 mg	8 tablets	2000 mg
Excedrin® Migraine Caplets and Tablets	Acetaminophen 250 mg Aspirin 250 mg Caffeine 65 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 tablets	2000 mg
Tylenol® Extra Strength Adult Liquid Pain Reliever	Acetaminophen 500 mg Alcohol 7%	8 tbsp	4000 mg
Tylenol® Arthritis Extended Relief Caplets	Acetaminophen 650 mg	6 caplets	3900 mg
Tylenol® Extra Strength Gelcaps, Geltabs, Caplets, and Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg	8 gelcaps, geltabs, caplets, or tablets	4000 mg
Infants' Tylenol® Concentrated Drops	Acetaminophen 80 mg (0.8 mL)	5 dropperfuls	400 mg
Tylenol® Regular Strength Caplets and Tablets	Acetaminophen 325 mg	Children (6-11): 5 caplets or tablets Adults and children (12+): 12 caplets or tablets	1625-3900 mg

# NONPRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS CONTAINING ACETAMINOPHEN\* (cont)

## SLEEP AIDS

Drug Name	Ingredients	Maximum Recommended 24-Hour No. of Doses	Maximum 24-Hour Acetaminophen Dose
Excedrin PM® Caplets, Geltabs, and Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Diphenhydramine Citrate 38 mg	Adults and children (12+): 2 caplets, geltabs, or tablets	1000 mg
Tylenol® PM Extra Strength Pain Reliever/ Sleep Aid Caplets, Geltabs, and Gelcaps	Acetaminophen 500 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 25 mg	Adults and children (12+): 2 caplets, geltabs, or gelcaps	1000 mg
Unisom® with Pain Relief®	Acetaminophen 650 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 50 mg	1 tablet	650 mg

## MENSTRUAL PAIN

Lurline® PMS Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pamabrom 25 mg Pyridoxine 50 mg	8 tablets	4000 mg
Maximum Strength Midol® Menstrual	Acetaminophen 500 mg Caffeine 60 mg Pyrilamine maleate 15 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 caplets or geltabs	4000 mg
Maximum Strength Midol® PMS	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pamabrom 25 mg Pyrilamine maleate 15 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 caplets or gelcaps	4000 mg
Maximum Strength Midol® Teen	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pamabrom 25 mg	8 caplets	4000 mg
Teen Midol® Caplets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pamabrom 25 mg	8 caplets	4000 mg

## ALLERGY/SINUS

Benadryl® Allergy/Sinus medicines	Diphenhydramine Chloride 12.5 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg Acetaminophen 500 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 caplets or gelcaps	4000 mg
Drixoral® Allergy/Sinus Extended-Release Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 6.5 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 7.5 mg	Adults and children (12+): 4 tablets	2000 mg
Sine-Aid® Maximum Strength Sinus medications	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 gelcaps, caplets, or tablets	4000 mg
Sinulin® Tablets	Acetaminophen 650 mg Phenylpropanolamine HCl 25 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 4 mg	Adults: 6 tablets Children (6-12): 3 tablets	3900 mg
Sinutab® Sinus Allergy medications	Acetaminophen 500 mg Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg	8 tablets or caplets	4000 mg
Sudafed® Sinus Caplets & Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 tablets or caplets	4000 mg
Tavist® Sinus Caplets and Gelcaps	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 caplets	4000 mg
Tylenol® Allergy Sinus Maximum Strength medications	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg	8 gelcaps	4000 mg
Children's Tylenol® Allergy-D medicines	Acetaminophen 80 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 6.25 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 7.5 mg	4 doses	320 mg
Children's Tylenol® Sinus medicines	Acetaminophen 80 mg (tablets) 160 mg (liquid) Pseudoephedrine HCl 7.5 mg (tablets) 15 mg (liquid)	16 tablets 8 tsp	1280 mg
Tylenol® Severe Allergy medication	Acetaminophen 500 mg Diphenhydramine HCl 12.5 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 caplets	4000 mg
Tylenol® Sinus, Maximum Strength Geltabs, Gelcaps, Caplets, and Tablets	Acetaminophen 500 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl 30 mg	Adults and children (12+): 8 doses	4000 mg

\*Important note: Not a complete list. Other OTC products may contain acetaminophen.

**References:**

1. Tolman KG. Hepatotoxicity of non-narcotic analgesics. *Am J Med.* 1998;105:13S-19S.
2. Salgia ADT, Kosnik SD. When acetaminophen use becomes toxic: treating acute accidental and intentional overdose. *Postgrad Med.* 1999;105:81-90.
3. Tylenol®. *Physicians' Desk Reference*®. 53rd ed. Montvale, NJ: Medical Economics Co, Inc; 1999:1685-1692.

**Prescription Medications:**

Darvocet-N is a registered trademark of Eli Lilly and Company.  
Esgic is a registered trademark of Forest Laboratories, Inc.  
Esgic-Plus is a trademark of Forest Laboratories, Inc.  
Fioricet is a registered trademark of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.  
Hycomine is a registered trademark of Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
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