Myth: children do not feel pain as their nervous system is not developed.<sup>1</sup> Myth: Let's get it over with guickly; they won't remember, they're scared. Not anticipating painful procedures (e.g. urethral caths, NG tube, lab work). Not completing a full assessment<sup>2</sup> or difficulty in assessing pain in very young Fear of "masking" signs of a more serious etiology  $\rightarrow$  No adverse outcome or delays in diagnosis attributed to administration of opioid analgesia in acute abdominal pain.<sup>3,4,5</sup> Fear of adverse events & overdose (sedation, respiratory depression)<sup>6</sup> Tendency to underdose (lack of parent/caregiver understanding of toxicity; dosing without dose calculation) Maintenance of pain control when transitioning *e.g.* when going home Pain Assessment in Pediatrics (will vary with age, pain type, etc.) Acute pain (assess pain intensity): Self-report scales:<sup>9</sup> NRS-11 Numerical (ensure numerical competency), age  $\geq$  6 yrs; **FPS-R** Faces Pain Scale-Revised,  $\geq$  4-7 yrs; <sup>10</sup> **CAS** Color Analogue Scale,  $\geq$  8 yrs. - Documenting pain score assoc. with  $\Lambda$  analgesic use &  $\sqrt{2}$  acute pain.<sup>8</sup> Observational Report: Observe changes from usual in cues (if self-report not possible Vocal • crying, screaming, yelling, moaning, whimpering Social • guietness, irritability, difficult to console Facial • furrowed brow, grimace, clenched teeth, tightly closed eyes Activity less movement, agitated, guarding of a body part Physical pallor, sweat, gasping/breathing change, tense/stiff Other changes in sleeping & eating patterns Also FLACC scale Face/Legs/Activity/Cry/Consolability, 2mos-7yrs post-op;<sup>11</sup> CPS Position 2022<sup>51</sup> Chronic pain (assess pain's interference → function & coping): BAPO Bath Adolescent Pain Questionnaire, 11-18 yrs. Resource for more tools: Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital Acute Procedural Pain (e.g. needle pain<sup>57</sup>) – Multimodal Tips

# Use 3P Approach: *Psychological* prep, distraction, *Physical* positioning, *Pharm.*

- Parent: be present, engage child in non-procedure talk, assist with child's position for comfort (sitting upright on or beside parent), apply numbing cream (Topical anaesthetic: OTC; apply prior to appointment; may ↓ pain 40%; Table 2), don't say "it's ok" or "it will be over soon"
- <u>Neonate/infant</u>: swaddle, initiate breastfeeding 2-3min pre-procedure<sup>17,18</sup>, if breastfeeding not feasible (e.g. NPO, contraindicated, parent not available), give oral sucrose e.g. ToorSweet sol'n 24% <sup>14,15,27</sup> + sucking 1-2min pre-procedure & repeat PRN.
- Antipyretics <u>may</u>  $\sqrt{}$  vaccine immune response not dinically sig?<sup>50</sup>; avoid giving pre-emptively
- <u>Age ≥1yr</u><sup>25,26</sup>: age-appropriate distraction, numbing cream, upright position.
- Distraction/psychological techniques<sup>16</sup> very useful if age appropriate:
   toys, books, bubbles, music, humour, TV, imagery, breathing, blowing pinwheel
- Apply vibration on the skin above where the immunization will be given.
- Older child (≥4yr): may also add preparation / explanation, Cough Trick.<sup>49</sup>
- Give information: brief description, what to expect feels cold/warm, little pinch, will help you!
- Choose words such as "pressure/immunization/poke", instead of "pain/shot/needle".
- Resource: Taking Fear & Pain Out of Needles For Your Child and You

**NSAID** 

OPIOID

Table 1: Pain Medication in Pediatrics - Overview (See also RxFiles pain-related charts at www.RxFiles.ca) Comments {Acetaminophen po: Max 90mg/kg/day some refs.} Drug Dose in Peds [po unless otherwise indicated] 10-15mg/kg q4-6h; Max 75mg/kg/day <sup>>40wks</sup> Acetaminophen<sup>TYLENOL</sup> •Caution if malnourished or dehydrated;  $\uparrow$  hepatotoxicity? Liquids, Chew-tab<sup>80, 160mg</sup>. {Drops<sup>Infant</sup>: 80mg/mL; Liquid: 160mg/5mL •{Loading dose x1: Emerg or post-op option; ≤30mg/kg po; Tab 325mg;Supp 120mg, 325mg Supp pr: 15-20mg/kg/dose Max 5 doses/24hr} orc  $\leq$ 40mg/kg rectal;<sup>41</sup> (Toxic single dose <6yrs:  $\geq$ 200mg/kg)} CAUTION! Calculate dose→ overdose common - mix-ups e.g. formulation! Link<sup>HC</sup> [<mark>Newborn</mark> 4-40wks</mark>: Max 60mg/kg/day; may give drops pr for doses ≤80mg] Ibuprofen <sup>≥6mon</sup> 5-10mg/kg q6-8h; Max 40mg/kg/day •may give acetaminophen & NSAID together for pain, not fever Susp<sup>20, 40mg/mL</sup>; Tab<sup>100, 20</sup> uprofen MOTRIN, ADVIL OTC, Naproxen ALEVE OTC ≥12yr some concern: long-term use may restrict healing fractures Naproxen >2yrs 5-7mg/kg BID; Max 20mg/kg/day; •caution in  $\downarrow$  renal fx, dehydration & ? bleeding disorder Susp 25mg/mL; Tab125mg celecoxib FDA approval: Juvenile RA >2yrs 10-25kg: 50mg po BID [pr: 25-49kg: 250mg/dose; ≥50kg: 500mg dose] monitor respirations •reassess/titrate: syrup, tab safe storage/disposal Morphine 0.2-0.4mg/kg po a4h Soln<sup>1, 5 mg/mL;</sup> Supp<sup>5, 10mg</sup> Tab<sup>5, 10mg</sup> (also SR & ER tabs) [IV: 0.05-0.1mg/kg IV/subcut q2-4h] •avoid meperidine (dysphoric, seizures •avoid tramadol in peds 0.04-0.08mg/kg PO q3-4h High alert drugs! **HYDROmorphone** 

ACUTE PAIN					
Abdominal acute	<b>Opioid</b> does not delay surgical decision <sub>appendicitis</sub> <sup>20</sup>				
-consider pain, age,	Relaxed patient $\rightarrow$ better exam & better diagnosis!				
Burns, Minor <sup>21</sup>	Cold compress x20-30min before applying a dressing.	• Mo effe			
<5% TBSA in children	Give oral analgesic (ibuprofen or acetaminophen).				
Earache	Acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Ensure adequate	pai ● Ma			
acute otitis media	dose, initiate quickly (1 <sup>st</sup> dose in emerg dept./	• Ivia			
(AOM): always treat	clinic!) Give around the clock x24-48hr.	Altern			
pain whether "watchful waiting" or	Warm heat-pad or cloth often helps.	• Tru			
using antibiotics.	AURALGAN ear drops (antipyrine & benzocaine): sensitizing;	• Rep			
8	AVOID if perforated ear drum. Option but minimally effective.	• Cor			
Emergency	Ibuprofen better than acetaminophen or codeine	• If a			
trauma	for pain relief & length of relief in musculoskeletal	try			
(e.g. musculoskeletal	injury (extremities, back & neck) in ED. <sup>24</sup>	{Alle			
injury)	<b>Opioids</b> morphine suitable if moderate to severe pain.				
	ibuprofen 10mg/kg = to oral morphine 0.5mg/kg for post-op ortho pain <sup>53</sup>	Extras			
extre	mity fracture pain <sup>54</sup> and morphine assoc. with more adverse effects.	Monitor			
	Cold compresses (e.g. for sprains), splinting, elevation,	Implicati •N2O:(50			
	bandaging +/- dressing (immobilizing area can $\psi$ pain)	•Midaz			
Open wound	Anaesthetics: administer <u>topically</u> e.g. LET (see below),	<u>po</u> : •			
(Not near eye!) <sup>28</sup>	direct local infiltration or regional nerve block. Tetanus status?	Not			
	<b>Tissue adhesive:</b> ↓pain in simple laceration <3cm. <sup>29</sup>	{ <u>IV</u> : C			
Post-op analgesia:	Start analgesia before child awakens (e.g. supp): regular	para			
{Concurrent opioids via IV	NSAID + acetaminophen + may add opioid PRN x3-5d for severe				
& epidural: resp.depr <1%} <sup>32</sup>	pain (caution: post-adeno-tonsillectomy); <u>Multimodal approach</u> : regional	• <u>Ketam</u> AE:			
	block if appropriate, epidural, cold/warm compresses.	drea			
COMMON MINO	R PROCEDURES {3P Approach to ↑ coping & pain threshold}	HR,			
Heel poke	Breastfeeding, sucrose, sucking. Topical anaesthetic no effect!	Rare			
IV insertion*:	Sucrose alone in healthy term newborns, $\downarrow$ pain more than	Pres			
Use non-	liposomal lidocaine ± sucrose; <sup>50</sup> sucrose + EMLA was better if pre-term. <sup>55</sup>	inju • Contor			
pharmacological	Topical anaesthetics (Table 2): takes time to absorb; pain relief	<ul> <li>Fentar</li> <li>Proportion</li> </ul>			
techniques.	incomplete. Place over vein on ${\geq}2$ sites. { $\Uparrow$ in cannulation rate	Rese			
	NNT=5; $\psi$ procedure time} <sup>30</sup> Avoid mucous membrane contact or				
Explain steps if	ingestion. AMETOP superior to EMLA for needles; <sup>31</sup>	→Rou			
appropriate.	Liposomal lidocaine: MAXILENE; effective, fast.	0 4			
	Vapocoolant Spray: PAIN EASE; onset ≤60sec.48	OF			
	Nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O) also useful.	O E			
Lumbar	Topical anaesthetic; po acetaminophen or ibuprofen;	$\rightarrow Do$			
puncture*	may mix in po midazolam <sup>1yr +</sup> ; sucrose <sup>if infant</sup>	→Be			
	NG Tube insertion Lidocaine jelly; sucrose & pacifier, or endotracheal spray if >2yr (burns & dose caution!)				
*Preventing pain may decrease analgesic requirement for future procedures!					
Link: Management of Chronic Pain in Children & Young People Scottish Guidelines 2018 Societ					

**Specific Therapeutic Considerations** 

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Q&As

<sup>ppendicitis;<sup>20</sup> diagnosis! g a dressing. hinophen). equate dept./</sup>	<ul> <li>Is alternating acetaminophen with ibuprofen appropriate?</li> <li>Increased risk of potential for errors &amp; adverse events (e.g. renal)</li> <li>Monotherapy sufficient &amp; preferred for vast majority.<sup>33,47</sup> If not effective, may switch to or add the other. Mechanisms differ for pain; may give one around the clock, with other PRN for breakthrough.</li> <li>May use concomitantly; if so, advise appropriate doses of each. Alternatives in topical/local anaesthetic allergy?</li> </ul>
sitizing; nimally effective. or codeine culoskeletal evere pain.	<ul> <li>True allergy to local anesthetic is rare;<sup>34</sup> often due to preservative</li> <li>Repeated use also ↑'s potential for hypersensitivity reactions</li> <li>Consider formulation without preservative if available/suitable<sup>35</sup></li> <li>If allergy to amide (e.g. lidocaine, bupivacaine, mepivacaine, prilocaine): try an ester (procaine, tetracaine, benzocaine, cocaine) &amp; vice versa.<sup>36</sup> {Allergy to both amide &amp; ester: diphenhydramine<sup>1%</sup> or benzyl alcohol; efficacy = to 1% lidocaine}</li> </ul>
-op ortho pain <sup>53</sup>	Extras: Drugs for Procedural Sedation (sedative/hypnotic adjuncts)
rse effects.	Monitor for procedural sedation & vital signs. Check protocols & be aware of guidelines/liability
g, elevation,	implications (institutional/departmental/professional). Should not be providing sedation & doing procedure.
a can ↓ pain)	• $\underline{N_2O}$ : (50/50mix O2, demand valve) age $\geq$ 3: quick 3 min, short acting good for IV starts; C: pneumothorax, bowel obstruction
ee below),	<ul> <li>•<u>Midazolam</u>: as adjunct prior to minor procedures; po onset 10-20min, duration 30-45min; po: &lt;20kg: 0.5-0.75mg/kg/dose; ≥20kg: 0.3-0.5mg/kg/dose; Max 10-20mg po;</li> </ul>
• Tetanus status?	Note IV midazolam dose is MUCH lower than po dose!!! (1/10th the dose)
ion <3cm. <sup>29</sup>	{IV: 0.05mg/kg/dose IV x1; repeat x1 PRN; onset 2-5min, duration 10-20min}; AE: disinhibition, apnea,
upp): regular 3-5d for severe ach: regional ssses. ain threshold} esthetic no effect! more than er if pre-term. <sup>55</sup> sorb; pain relief liation rate	paradoxical agitation; Caution: ↓ hepatic / renal fx; □: CNS depressants: ↓ dose of both.         {Nasal limited study: faster onset but ↓ sedation & duration than po; less effective than intranasal ketamine. <sup>37</sup> }         •Ketamine: follow protocol; <sup>38</sup> 0.5-2mg/kg IV; onset 1-5min; duration 15-60min;         ▲E: nystagmus, dissociative (looks awake but is asleep; inform parents); vivid dreams x48hrs {add low dose midazolam if ≥10 yrs to prevent nightmares}; ABP, HR, salivation (co-administer atropine with 1st dose); <sup>39</sup> rash common but transient.         Rare-Severe A:       laryngospasm, apnea, resp depression, recovery agitation, Preserves pharyngeal & resp fx. C: airway instability, URTI, ?^LICP, ABP, acute globe injury, glaucoma, thyrotoxicosis, psych disorder. Age >1yr preferred; □: CYP 2B6.         •Fentany!: chest wall rigidity possible with midazolam       •Propofol: CAUTION - SIGNIFICANT TOXICITY! → metabolic acidosis; ABP, ^death in ICU!
e contact or	Reserve for anaesthesia.
needles; <sup>31</sup>	→Route of administration: generally use IV, po; but pr rarely
t.	• Avoid the IM route (add to pain; erratic absorption) <sup>40</sup>
8	• PCA pump option in cancer pain for older children anaesthesia referral
	• Epidural: option if AEs to po, IV meds; consider when indicated e.g. amputation
ibuprofen;	<ul> <li>○ Patch: convenient &amp; less messy vs crms: strong adhesion &amp; pain on removal.</li> <li>→ Dosing: by weight mg/kg or per body surface area, don't exceed max adult dosing.</li> <li>→ Be prepared to prevent drug side effects +/- treat as soon as they</li> </ul>
/r (burns & dose caution!)	happen {e.g. nausea, constipation & itch with opioids; dry mouth mouth care}
es!	Resource: Best Practices in Pain Assessment and Management for Children: Canadian Paediatric

Resource: Best Practices in Pain Assessment and Management for Children: Canadian Paediatric Society, 2022: https://cps.ca/en/documents/position/pain-assessment-and-management

Table 2: Topical Anaesthetics**OTC       See handout for admin.       Comments: use only on intact skin; avoid middle ear ototoxic					
AMETOP tetracaine (amethocaine) 4% Gel * <sup>S</sup> <sup>\$15/1.5g</sup>	<ul> <li>Apply 30min venipuncture to 45min venous cannulation prior; occlusion required! Lasts</li> </ul>				
[ester] {write time on patch & remove per instructions blistering}	4-6hrs after removal; Age: >1mo term infant; Vasodilation (erythema; edema); Refrigerate.				
EMLA lidocaine <sub>2.5%</sub> *+prilocaine <sub>2.5%</sub> * •:crm <sup>\$65/30g</sup> ,patch <sup>\$18/2pa</sup>	• •60+ min prior; occlusion required! Age: term infant; vasoconstriction {Rare: risk of				
[amide] (Patch * cannot be cut; remove before MRI scan)	methemoglobinemia: ↑ if <3mos; & in <1yr if DI's that ↑ Met-Hgb risk e.g. sulfonamides}				
MAXILENE 5 Liposomal* Lidocaine 5% crm <sup>4</sup> © 564-72/30 + 15-45+ min prior; lasts 1-2hr, occlusion not required; minimally vasoactive.					
Similar-alternative products 4-5% - LMX-4, ELA-Max (5% oint ) (Various products - strength may vary – e.g. LMX-4 = 4% crm)					
Table 3: Other Local Anaesthetics** Comments: 45 minutes for good effect; Avoid mucous membranes <sup>42</sup>					
LET lidocaine 4% */ epinephrine 0.1% / tetracaine 0.5%	<ul> <li>Topical anaesthetic for open wounds esp facial/scalp if &lt;5cm in length; max 3mL</li> </ul>				
Epinephrine (E): ↑ hemostasis, ↑ anaesthetic duration; (compoun	1) mix with cellulose form gel, apply to wound, cover - occlusive dressing				
AVOID: digits, nose tip, ear, penis (2° necrosis end artery).	<ol><li>place LET soaked cotton ball into wound; apply pressure x20min</li></ol>				
Methylcellulose / epinephrine 0.05% / cocaine 11.8%	<ul> <li>Mixed solution with methylcellulose forms gel, preventing running; LET preferred!</li> </ul>				
Local Infiltration : 1) warm anaesthetic <sup>37 C</sup> , 2) use smaller gauge needle (e.g. 27 or 30-gauge), 3) inject at slow rate, proximal borders 1 <sup>st</sup> , from					
inside wound edge, 4) pre-treat with topical anaesthetic, 5) consider buffering (sodium bicarb 9mL mix with 1mL 1mEq/mL bicarb) for less pain, 6) pressure					
Lidocaine (L): local onset rapid; duration 30min Mepiva	acaine: local onset 6-10min; duration 1-3hrs; Bupivacaine (B): local onset 8-12min;				
	<3yrs or weight <13.6kg, use [0.5-1.5%]; duration 4- 6hr; Age 12yrs+ 🗸				
	asodilation & epinephrine seldom needed CI: sulfite allergy [B: 0.25%, 0.5%; B+E: 1%, 2%]				
*avoid if amide allergy (rare); ** systemic toxicity (cardiac & CNS-seizures) possible but rare with appropriate use: (careful with dose & site).					
$\widehat{\bullet}$ =Exception Drug Status in SK $\chi$ =Non-formulary in SK $\varphi$ =prior approval for NIHB $\otimes$ =not covered by NIHB $\nabla$ =covered by NIHB 139					

### **Pediatric Pain**

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#### **Pediatric Pain Online Extras**

Table 3: Additional Analgesic Options				
AMETOP: tetracaine (amethocaine) 4% GeI: Adults (including geriatrics) & children over	EMLA (lidocaine and prilocaine) - for intact skin, requires occlusion, needs	Benzocaine – in NG tube placement controversial. <sup>10</sup> Causes methemoglobinemia!!! AVOID!		
1 month of age: Apply contents of the tube to the skin starting from the centre of the area to	to be applied for at least one hour <b>Dose</b> — To attain adequate anesthesia, 1 to 2 g of	<ul> <li>Lidocaine iontophoresis {Numby Stuff}: mild electric current penetrates skin more quickly;</li> </ul>		
be anesthetized & cover with an occlusive dressing. The contents expellable from 1 tube	EMLA cream should be applied per 10 sq cm (approximate size of a Canadian	effective in 10-20min. <sup>43</sup> EMLA similar or slightly better. <sup>44,45</sup> (Tingle may be bothersome.)		
(approximately 1 g) will cover & anesthetize an area of up to 30cm <sup>2</sup> (6×5 cm {~ 3/4 area of a credit	"toonie") of skin and covered with an occlusive dressing for 45 to 60 minutes. The	◆ TAC tetracaine 0.5% / epinephrine 0.05% / cocaine ≤11.8%; AE: seizures, arrhythmias, fatal; requires		
card)). Smaller areas of anesthetized skin may be adequate in infants & small children.	maximum application areas recommended for children are Less than 10 kg -100 sq	narcotic storage (LET preferred)		
Adequate anesthesia can usually be achieved for venepuncture following a 30-minute	cm {~2.5x area of a credit card};10 to 20 kg — 600 sq cm; Greater than 20 kg — 2000 sq	Cancer Pain: see reference #46		
application time, & for venous cannulation following a 45-minute application time; after	cm; causes vasoconstriction & ? seizures.	<ul> <li>Urethral Catheterization: lidocaine gel 5-10 min prior to insertion while setting up then use as the</li> </ul>		
which the gel should be removed with a gauze swab & the site prepared with an antiseptic		lubricant as well (UI Children's hospital video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9wnbmP5EpM)		
wipe in the normal manner. It is not necessary to apply tetracaine gel for longer than the		SaskPain: https://www.saskpain.ca/		
above times & anesthesia is maintained for 4 to 6 hrs in most patients after a single		mom & kids Health Saskatchewan Pain Clinic:		
application.		https://momsandkidssask.saskhealthauthority.ca/infant-child-health/specialty-		
ealth Canada Advisory, March 2009: Caution regarding serious adverse events, including fatalities, with excessive application of topical anesthetics in adults & pedst				

FLACC SC	ALE – for assessing	pain in very young children <sub>non-vert</sub>	pal; suitable for cognitively
Face	No particular expression or smile	Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested	Frequent to constant quivering chin, clenched jaw
Legs	Normal position or relaxed	Uneasy, restless, tense	Kicking, or legs drawn up
Activity	Lying quietly, normal position, moves easily	Squirming, shifting back and forth, tense	Arched, rigid or jerking
Cry	No cry (awake or asleep)	Moans or whimpers; occasional complaint	Crying steadily, screams or sobs, frequent complaints
Consolability	Content, relaxed	Reassured by occasional touching,	Difficult to console or

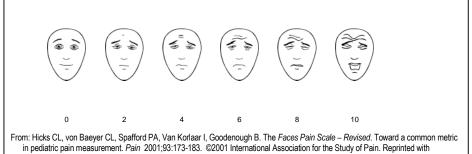
### Pain Intensity Scoring:

• Chose a scale that is age appropriate to patient & become familiar with using!

- Interpret in light of any other pain related physical factors (e.g. heart rate)
- Also interpret according to trends for improvement or worsening of pain control
- Sherbrooke algorithm for acute pain in children (post-op): gave regular analgesic according to pain scale: {0-3: acetaminophen; 3-6: naproxen + acetaminophen; 6-9: morphine + naproxen + acetaminophen; 9-10: notify MD. Overall ↓ in pain scores & a ↓ in opioid requirement as algorithm required patient to receive round the clock acetaminophen and NSAID if opioid recieved.}
- Other links: Visual Analogue Scale: suitable for age 7+ {McGrath PA, Seifert CE, Speechley KN, et al. A new analogue scale for assessing children's pain: an initial validation study. Pain. 1996 Mar;64(3):435-43.} Oucher Scale: age 3-12: http://www.oucher.org/history.html BMJ Clinical Review: Pain Management and Sedation for Children in the Emergency Setting: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/339/oct30\_1/b4234

Faces Pain Scale – Revised (FPS-R) – age 4+

This is a thumbnail image. The full-size FPS-R with instructions is available at https://www.iasp-pain.org/resources/faces-pain-scale-revised/. Numbers are not shown to children.



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FDA Aug/12 is reviewing reports of children who developed serious adverse effects or died after taking codeine for pain relief after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy for obstructive sleep apnea syndrome. Recently, three pediatric deaths and one non-fatal but life-threatening case of respiratory depression were documented in the medical literature. FDA Jun/14 warns that prescription oral viscous lidocaine 2 percent solution should not be used to treat infants and children with teething pain. We are requiring a new Boxed Warning, FDA's strongest warning, to be added to the drug label to highlight this information. Oral viscous lidocaine solution is not approved to treat teething pain, and use in infants and young children can cause serious harm, including death FDA May/18 is warning that over-the-counter (OTC) oral drug products containing benzocaine should not be used to treat infants and children younger than 2 years. We are also warning that benzocaine oral drug products should only be used in adults and children 2 years and older if they contain certain warnings on the drug label. These products carry serious risks and provide little to no benefits for treating oral pain, including sore gums in infants due to teething. Benzocaine, a local anesthetic, can cause a condition in which the amount of oxygen carried through the blood is greatly reduced. This condition, called methemoglobinemia, can be life-threatening and result in death. Fein JA et al. Relief of pain and anxiety in pediatric patients in emergency medical systems. Pediatrics 2012 Nov; 130:e1391. Fortier, Michelle A., MacLaren, Jill E., Martin, Sarah R., et al. Pediatric Pain After Ambulatory Surgery: Where's the Medication? Pediatrics 2009 124: e588-e595. Franck LS, Oulton K, Nderitu S, et al. Parent Involvement in Pain Management for NICU Infants: A Randomized Controlled Trial. Pediatrics. 2011 Aug 22. 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- Health Canada Apr/12 is informing Canadians that it has requested companies to add new risk statements to the packaging and labelling of licensed benzocaine products. In April 2011, Health Canada reminded Canadians of certain health risks associated with **benzocaine** products, including a very rare but serious blood condition known as **methemoglobinemia** that can affect sensitive individuals.

Health Canada Oct/20 is reminding parents and caregivers not to use products containing **benzocaine** in children under two years of age. Benzocaine products may cause a serious blood condition called methemoglobinemia (MetHb), which reduces the ability of red blood cells to deliver oxygen throughout the body.

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