

**LAKE OF THE WOODS
DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

MANUAL:	NURSING PROCEDURE Added Nursing Skill	Number:	
CATEGORY:	Medical Directive	Page:	1 of 2
ISSUED BY:	Medical Advisory Committee	Date of Issue:	Mar. 2008
REFERENCE:		Review/Revised:	

TITLE: **Adult Fever Management**

SANCTIONED BY: Medical Advisory Committee

CRITERIA: Initiation of therapy for adult patients who present with a documented febrile episode.

INITIATED BY: Appropriately educated Registered Nurses working in the ER Department

PHYSICIAN NOTIFICATION: As Soon As Possible

CONTRAINDICATIONS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS DIRECTIVE:

- Abdominal pain
- Lack of patient/family consent.
- All pregnant patients must be assessed by a physician prior to implementing medication components of the directive.
- Allergy to acetaminophen or ibuprofen.
- History of cirrhosis, chronic liver disease or alcoholism.

PROCEDURE FOR DIRECTIVE:

Give an anti-pyretic to adults with a temperature greater than 38 celsius. The temperature should be reassessed 30 minutes after administration of medication. This intervention will be explained to the patient and/or family and verbal consent will be obtained.

- For use of oral meds, the patient must be conscious and alert, have an intact gag reflex, and a patent airway.
- History of antipyretic therapy (adequacy of dose, response) must be documented. If a sub-therapeutic dose has been given, calculate the difference between the inadequate dose and the therapeutic dose and administer that amount.

DOSAGE:

Acetaminophen 1000 mg PO/PR prn x 1 dose.

OR:

Ibuprofen 600 mg PO prn x 1 dose.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Implementation of this Medical Directive must be documented on the ER chart under physician orders.
- Response to medication administered must be documented.

REFERENCES:

Chatham-Kent *Health Alliance* MEDICAL DIRECTIVES AND ADVANCED TRIAGE PROTOCOLS , June 2004, Chatham-Kent, Ontario

Lakeridge Health *Lakeridge Health Corporation* EMERGENCY MEDICAL DIRECTIVES , 2005, Oshawa, Ontario

DATE OF APPROVAL OF DIRECTIVE:

SIGNATURES:

Program Medical Advisor

Chief of Staff