Government of **Western Australia**
North Metropolitan Health Service
Women and Newborn Health Service

ADULT Medication Monograph
Paracetamol ## (including combination product with codeine)
This document should be read in conjunction with this **DISCLAIMER**
Formulary: Restricted *(combination products containing codeine)*
Formulary: Unrestricted
⚠️ **HIGH RISK Medication** *(combination products containing codeine)*

Class	**Paracetamol:** analgesic
	Paracetamol with codeine: opioid analgesic

Presentation	**Paracetamol Products**	
	Form	**Strength**
	Tablet	500mg
	Effervescent tablet	500mg
	Mini capsule	500mg
	Slow release tablet	665mg
	Oral suspension	50mg/mL
	Suppository	500mg, 250mg, 125mg
	Infusion Bottle	1gin 100mL
	Combination Product	
	Form	**Strength**
	Tablet	Paracetamol 500mg with codeine 30mg

Storage	Store at room temperature, below 25°C
	Schedule 4 Restricted Medication *(combination product with codeine)*

Dose	*Doses are based on paracetamol.*
	Pain and Fever
	Oral/Rectal:
	500 - 1000mg every 4 to 6 hours; maximum 4g daily
	Oral Controlled Release (665mg):
	2 tablets every 6 to 8 hours swallowed whole. Maximum 6 tablets (3990mg) daily

	IV Infusion: *>50 kg*: 1g every 4 to 6 hours; maximum 4g daily *<50 kg:* 15mg/kg every 4 to 6 hours; maximum 60mg/kg daily *Renal/hepatic impairment:* ensure doses are at least 6 hours apart **Maximum dose:** Usual maximum dose in adults is 4g daily; doses up to 6g daily may be used in palliative care and for 3 to 5 days by specialist pain services for acute pain. Maximum daily dose of codeine: 240mg
Administration	**Oral** Swallow controlled release tablets whole; do not crush or chew. **IV Infusion** Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)
Pregnancy	**Paracetamol and Paracetamol with codeine products**

1st Trimester:	Safe to use
2nd Trimester:	Safe to use
3rd Trimester:	Safe to use

Breastfeeding	**Paracetamol** — Safe to use
	Paracetamol with codeine — Consider alternative – life-threatening adverse events have been reported, including death of a breastfed infant of a mother exposed to codeine
Monitoring	When used at high doses for prolonged periods, monitor liver aminotransferase levels and signs of hepatotoxicity. Higher than recommended doses can cause serious liver damage. Check that no other forms of paracetamol are prescribed (e.g. oral or rectal) and that the safe maximum total dose of paracetamol is not exceeded for adults and children. Take care not to confuse the dose for IV paracetamol in mg and mL. If a dose is calculated in mg and given in mL, the patient will receive a 10-fold overdose. Calculate and double check the dose required before each administration. **Combination product with codeine:** • Pain score and frequency of breakthrough pain relief use

	• Bowel movements • Sedation sore and respiratory rate • Dependence and tolerance
Clinical Guidelines and Policies	**KEMH O&G Clinical Guidelines:** Breastfeeding challenges: Engorgement/Full, Lumpy Breasts Pregnancy Care: First Trimester Complications Postoperative Anaesthetics Labour and Postoperative Analgesia Perineal Repair: Management of Third and Fourth Degree Perineal Trauma Postnatal Care: Perineal Care Palliative Care **KEMH Pharmaceutical & Medicines Management Guidelines:** Nurse/Midwife Initiated Medications Endorsed Midwives Prescribing
References	Australian Medicines Handbook. Paracetamol. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2020 [cited 2020 Jul 10]. Available from: https://amhonline.amh.net.au/ Australian Medicines Handbook. Codeine. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2020 [cited 2020 Jul 10]. Available from: https://amhonline.amh.net.au/ The Royal Women's Hospital. Paracetamol. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2020 [cited 2020 Jul 10]. Available from: https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/ The Royal Women's Hospital. Codeine. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2020 [cited 2020 Jul 10]. Available from: https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/ Therapeutic Goods Administration. Safety review: Codeine use in children and ultra-rapid metabolisers [Internet]. Canberra, ACT: Therapeutic Goods Administration; 2017 [cited 2020 Jul 10]. Available from: https://www.tga.gov.au/alert/safety-review-codeine-use-children-and-ultra-rapid-metabolisers

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