

Keeping Your Child Safe

A Message to Parents

Use Caution with Cough and Cold Medicines for Children

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a public health advisory about using cough and cold medicines with young children. Giving children too much cough and cold medicine can be dangerous. The FDA has given these recommendations for parents in using the over-the-counter medicines.



Advice for Parents



- **Read all of the information in the “Drug Facts” box on the package label and follow directions carefully.** If you don’t understand the information, call your health care provider and ask for help.
- **Do not use cough and cold products in children under 2 years old** unless you receive specific directions to do so by a health care provider.
- **Do not give medicine to a child more often or in greater amounts than is stated on the package.** Too much medicine may lead to serious and life-threatening side effects.
- **Ask a health care provider if you are unsure about the right product for your child.**
- **Tell your health care provider about any other medicines (over-the-counter or prescription) that are being given.** Your health care provider should review and approve their combined use.
- **Do not give children medicine that is packaged and made for adults.** Use only products marked for use with babies, infants or children.
- **Use the measuring device (dropper, dosing cup or dosing spoon) that is packaged with the medicine.** A kitchen teaspoon is not an appropriate measuring device for giving medicines to children.

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration/August 16, 2007

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