# **ACETAMINOPHEN**

#### Over 50 million Americans use a medicine that contains acetaminophen each week.

Acetaminophen is an ingredient in over 600 medicines. Typically, it's used to relieve pain and reduce fever.

#### **ACETAMINOPHEN SAFETY**

The accessibility of acetaminophen makes it one of the most common culprits in medication overdoses for children and young people. 75% of patients hospitalized for acetaminophen overdose are between the ages of 15-19. Whether intentional or not, acetaminophen overdoses are dangerous and can cause serious liver damage or even death.

# Medicines that contain acetaminophen include:



OTC pain relief



Allergy medicine



Cold/flu medicine



Nighttime sleep aids

#### HERE'S HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE



# DO know if your medicine contains acetaminophen.

Look for acetaminophen on the Drug Facts label and be aware it could also be listed as APAP (the abbreviated chemical name for the drug), acetam., AC, or Acetamin.



# DO store all medicines up, away, and out of sight of children and teens.

— especially those containing acetaminophen. Twist medicine caps until you hear the click, and store them in a locked cabinet that is too high for children and teens to reach.



## DO take any potential acetaminophen overdose seriously.

Call poison control if you, your child, or a young person has taken more than directed.

### → DO NOT ignore the risk of intentional overdose.

Acetaminophen is one of the most common drugs used in a suicide attempt. Know the warning signs, and know that mental health assistance is available by call or chat 24/7 at 988.

#### DO NOT give a child or young person more acetaminophen than directed.

Know the signs of a potential acetaminophen overdose. These are yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes, nausea or vomiting, loss of appetite, fatigue, and unusual bruising or bleeding.

#### → DO NOT use more than one medicine containing acetaminophen at a time.

If directed to do so, don't exceed the maximum recommended dose of acetaminophen from all sources. If unsure, ask your medical provider or pharmacist for assistance.

### Every second counts in a poison emergency.

- 1 Call 9-1-1 if the person is unconscious or has trouble breathing.
- 2 Call Poison Help (1-800-222-1222) to connect to your local poison center.
- 3 Stay calm most poison emergencies can be resolved quickly.

