

Common medication errors in children by parents and caregivers



1. Giving too much or too little a dose

Having dosing tools or having the exact amounts written down can help us give the right amount of medicine.



2. Forgetting a dose

In order to ensure no doses are inadvertently missed, we can use tools such as calendars or monthly pillboxes.



3. Wrong preparation of a medicine

Some preparations are more complex, so we can ask the paediatrician or pharmacist for an explanation, both orally and in writing, to have a better understanding of the procedure.



4. Quitting treatment early

Even if the child improves his or her symptoms, it is not recommended to stop treatment without first consulting with professionals.



5. Giving the wrong medication

If your child takes more than one medication, medicines can be confused and cause incidents.



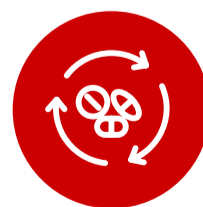
6. Giving an expired medication

Writing down the expiry date of medicines in a calendar and checking medicines periodically can help avoid this error.



7. Repeating a dose

To avoid confusion, you can keep a written control with a notebook or application of the doses that are administered to your child.



8. Re-using medicines

Once a treatment has been completed, it is not recommended to take the medication again without consulting professionals, even if the same symptoms reappear.

References:

Revisión sistemática sobre los errores de medicación pediátrica por parte de los padres o cuidadores en el hogar. Pediatría basada en pruebas; 2021. Available at: <http://www.pediatribasadaenpruebas.com/2021/07/revision-sistemica-sobre-los-errores.html?spref=tw&m=1&s=03>
Lopez-Pineda A, González J, Guilabert M, Mira-Perceval G, Mira JJ. *A systematic review on pediatric medication errors by parents or caregivers at home.* Expert Opin Drug Saf. 2021 Jul 12; 1-11. Available at: DOI: 10.1080/14740338.2021.1950138