

# Reminder: NSAIDs and Chicken pox

## August 2017



NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) advise against the use of NSAIDs, such as Ibuprofen, for the symptomatic relief of fever or pain in both children and adults with chicken pox.

Paracetamol is the preferred treatment option when fever and/or pain is causing distress.

The basis for this recommendation followed a review of available literature and evidence which raised concerns of an association between the use of NSAIDs in children with chicken pox and an increased risk of severe skin and soft tissue infections or reactions.

The risk of skin reactions and infections is unclear in adults, as most of the available literature relates to children. However, until further evidence becomes available, it is recommended that NSAIDs should be avoided in adults who are suffering from chicken pox.

Both prescribers and community pharmacists are advised to adhere to the guidance issued by NICE CKS when prescribing, dispensing, supplying or recommending products for analgesia or fever to individuals who have chicken pox

*NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries has advised against the use of NSAIDs for the symptomatic relief of fever or pain in both children and adults with chicken pox.*

*There are concerns that there is an association between the use of NSAIDs in children with chicken pox and an increased risk of severe skin infections and reactions.*

*Paracetamol is the preferred treatment option when fever and/or pain is causing distress.*

**For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on  
01254 282087 (BwD CCG) or 01282 644807 (EL CCG)**