



## Child-Resistant Packaging - KIDCAP

Some medicines can cause serious harm, even death, if they are accidentally ingested by infants or children. Child-resistant packaging is designed to limit or delay access to medicines. This packaging is not child-proof, but does play a role in preventing harm in this vulnerable population.

### ▶ What is child-resistant packaging?

Child-resistant packaging is designed to limit, or delay access to multiple dose units of a medicine and can be in a number of forms including:

- Foil or blister packing;
- Sachets;
- Containers with child-resistant caps (e.g. bottles, vials).

### ▶ Which medicines need child-resistant packaging?

Medicines that require child resistant packaging under regulation are listed in Therapeutic Goods Order 80 (TGO 80) and Therapeutic Goods Order 80 A (TGO 80A – as of 01/10/2013).

### ▶ How do I know if a medicine requires child-resistant packaging?

A new warning code has been added to i.Pharmacy. For all medicines that require child-resistant packaging, the warning code **KIDCAP** will appear with all other ancillary warning codes on iPharmacy screens and labels.

### ▶ When do medicines need child-resistant packaging?

If medicines listed in TGO 80 or TGO 80A (as of 01/10/2013) and are prepared for use outside the hospital setting, they require child resistant packaging. This includes:

- Discharge medicines;
- Outpatient medicines;
- Medicines supplied to clinical areas labelled for discharge or for supply as take home packs;
- Weekend or day leave medicine.

**Medicines used within the hospital do not require child-resistant packaging.**

### ▶ What does this mean in practice?

In terms of day to day dispensing, this means that there is now a software prompt to help identify products requiring child-resistant packaging. For these products:

#### For loose tablets:

Where loose tablets are repackaged into a capped container (e.g. bottle or vial), a child-resistant cap must be used to close the container.

#### For liquids:

Liquid medicines packaged in bottles must be closed with a child-resistant cap.

#### For sachets, or tablets in foil or blister strips:

These forms of packaging are already considered child-resistant. As long as they remain in their sachet, foil or blister strip, they do not need any additional child-resistant closure.

### ▶ What if my patient cannot open child-resistant packaging?

In situations where a pharmacist or prescriber feels that child-resistant packaging may be unreasonably difficult for a patient to open, and that this will impact on their ability to take the prescribed treatment, they can choose to not use it. In such cases, the patient (and/or the patient's carer) should be informed about the risks to children and given advice on safe storage. Local policy should be in place to provide guidance in this situation.

#### For further information:

Medication Safety and Quality  
Level 13, 227 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000  
Phone (02) 9269 5500  
Fax (02) 9269 5599  
Email [medicationsafety@cec.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:medicationsafety@cec.health.nsw.gov.au)  
Web [www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au)