



NEONATAL MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Suxamethonium

Scope (Staff): Nursing, Medical and Pharmacy Staff

Scope (Area): KEMH NICU, PCH NICU, NETS WA

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

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HIGH RISK Medication 

Inadvertent use in patients without the availability of medical staff skilled in airway support can lead to respiratory arrest, permanent harm or death

Description

Depolarising, short acting neuromuscular blocker and skeletal muscle relaxant/paralytic

Presentation

Prefilled Syringe: 10 mg/2 mL (available at both PCH and KEMH)

Ampoule: 100 mg/2 mL

Storage

Prefilled Syringe: Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Ampoule: Refrigerate, do not freeze. Store at 2°C to 8°C

Indication

Elective endotracheal intubation - premedication

Dose

Elective endotracheal intubation

IV:

2 mg/kg immediately prior to intubation

May be repeated if required – repeated dosing increases the risk of bradycardia

Must be accompanied by adequate analgesia or sedation

Preparation

Use prefilled syringe if available.

If prefilled syringe is unavailable, prepare the following dilution using the ampoule:

IV

Dilution: Take 1mL (50 mg) from ampoule and dilute to 10 mL with compatible fluid.

Concentration is 50 mg/10 mL. Final concentration is 5 mg/mL.

Administration

IV bolus

Give over 10 to 30 seconds

Compatible Fluids

Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5%, Glucose 10%

Y-Site Compatibility

Refer to KEMH Neonatal Medication Guideline: [Y-Site IV Compatibility in Neonates](#)

Side Effects

Common: hypertension, hypotension, bradycardia

Serious: malignant hyperthermia, hyperkalaemia

Comments

Very rapid onset (30 to 60 seconds) and short duration of action (3 to 5 minutes) after IV administration.

Continuous administration over a prolonged period of time may result in irreversible blockade (phase II block).

Should not be used without additional sedation.

References

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Keywords	Suxamethonium, succinylcholine, neuromuscular blocker, intubation				
Document Owner:	Head of Department - Neonatology				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH & PCH Pharmacy/Neonatology Directorate				
Version Info:	V5.1 – amendment: prefilled syringe available at PCH as well as KEMH (Dec 2024)				
Date First Issued:	03/2013	Last Reviewed:	20/03/2023	Review Date:	20/03/2028
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Directorate Management Group			Date:	28/03/2023
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 2: Partnering with Consumers <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety		<input type="checkbox"/>  Std 5: Comprehensive Care <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 6: Communicating for Safety <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 7: Blood Management <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration		
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