



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

EPHEDRINE

Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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

Quick Links

[Dose](#)

[Administration](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Pregnancy and Breastfeeding](#)

Restrictions

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

Medication Class

Sympathomimetic agent

Presentation

There are 2 different salts: Ephedrine Hydrochloride and Ephedrine Sulfate

Prefilled Syringe: 30mg/10mL Ephedrine Hydrochloride (IV injection)

Ampoule: 30mg/mL Ephedrine Sulfate (IV/IM injection)

Storage

Prefilled syringe: Store below 30 °C. Protect from light

Ampoule: Store below 25 °C. Protect from light

Dose

Indication 1: Epidural complications – hypotension

Route: IV

Dose: Use Prefilled syringe (which is already diluted) and give in 6mg increments (i.e. 2mL)

If Prefilled syringe is unavailable, then use 30mg ampoule and dilute to 10mL with sodium chloride 0.9% and give in 6mg (2mL) increments.

Indication 2: Hypotension secondary to neuraxial anaesthesia**Route: IM or IV**Refer to KEMH Clinical Guideline: Pain and Anaesthesia: [Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocols](#)**Administration****IV injection: Preferred route when an immediate response is required.****IM injection: Suitable for Ephedrine Sulfate only.**Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)**Monitoring**

Signs of extravasation

Monitor blood pressure and urinary output. Continuous cardiac monitoring is recommended

Pregnancy**1st Trimester:** Monitoring required**2nd Trimester:** Monitoring required**3rd Trimester:** Monitoring requiredFor more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).**Breastfeeding**

On an acute basis, it is not likely to harm a breastfeeding infant. However, it should not be used regularly by breastfeeding mothers.

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).**Comments**

There are 2 different salts forms i.e. Ephedrine Hydrochloride and Ephedrine Sulfate

Related Policies, Procedures & GuidelinesKEMH Clinical Guideline: Pain and Anaesthesia: [Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocols](#)KEMH Clinical Guideline: Pain and Anaesthesia: Labour Analgesia [Epidural Complications](#)KEMH Clinical Guidelines: O&G: Caesarean birth: [Uterine tone and caesarean birth: pharmacological management](#)**References**MIMS Australia. Ephedrine injection. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2022 [cited 2022 May 09]. Available from: <https://www.mimsonline.com.au>

Truven Health Analytics. Ephedrine. In: Micromedex [Internet]. Greenwood Village (CO): Truven Health Analytics; 2022 [cited 2022 May 09]. Available from: <http://www.micromedexsolutions.com/>

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Ephedrine. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2022 [cited 2022 May 09]. Available from: <http://aidh.hcn.com.au>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Ephedrine. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2021 [cited 2022 May 09]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

Hale TW. Ephedrine. In: Hale's Meds [Internet]. New York: Springer Publishing Company; 2017 [cited 2022 Jul 20]. Available from: <https://www-halesmeds-com.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/monographs/61075?q=ephedrine>

Keywords	Ephedrine, hydrochloride, sulfate, hypotension, resuscitation, epidural complications				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH Pharmacy Department				
Version Info:	4.0				
Date First Issued:	March 2014	Last Reviewed:	09/05/2022	Review Date:	09/05/2025
Endorsed by:	Medicines and Therapeutics Committee			Date:	07/09/2022
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety				
Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. Access the current version from WNHS HealthPoint.					

The health impact upon Aboriginal people has been considered, and where relevant incorporated and appropriately addressed in the development of this document (insert ISD Number). (Please refer to the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration for Department of Health and Health Service Provider Guidelines – please delete once you have completed this).

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© Women and Newborn Health Service 2022

Copyright of this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.