OXYTOCIN (SYNTHETIC) AND ERGOMETRINE MALEATE
(SYNTOMETRINE®)

**PRESENTATION**
Ampoule: Oxytocin (Synthetic) 5 IU
Ergometrine maleate 0.5mg per mL, 1mL

**ACTION**
Both oxytocin and ergometrine work by stimulating the muscles of the uterus to produce rhythmic contractions

**INDICATION**
Active management of third stage of labour in women identified as high risk for post partum haemorrhage.
Prevention or treatment of post partum haemorrhage

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**
Pre-eclampsia, Severe fibroids, Moderate to severe cardiac disease or severe peripheral vascular disease, Severe high blood pressure, Severe hepatic or renal impairment, Sepsis, Hypersensitivity to oxytocin or ergometrine

**PRECAUTIONS**
Multiple births - ensure administration after birth of last infant Breech births, abnormal presentations

**DOSE**
Active management of third stage of labour:
IM: One mL Syntometrine

Prevention or treatment of post partum haemorrhage:
IM: One mL Syntometrine following expulsion of the placenta, or when bleeding occurs. Dose may be repeated in 2 hours

**ADVERSE EFFECTS**
Uterine hyperstimulation, hyponatraemia, hypotension
Nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, headaches
Rarely MI, cerebral infarction, gangrene, pulmonary oedema, arrhythmias, anaphylactoid reaction

**COMMENTS**
See also Section P Oxytocin (synthetic)

**PREGNANCY**
Do not use (ADEC category C)

**LACTATION**
Use immediately post partum is acceptable.

**CLINICAL GUIDELINE LINKS**
Clinical Guidelines Section B Active Management of the Third Stage Following a Vaginal Birth
Clinical Guidelines Section B Labour & Birth Suite - Quick Reference Guide to Syntometrine
Clinical Guidelines Section B Prophylactic and Therapeutic Oxytocin Administration and Infusion Regimens

**Other guideline links**