

NEONATAL MEDICATION PROTOCOLS

PHENOBARBITONE SODIUM
 Created by: NCCU
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NCCU Clinical Guidelines
 KEMH/PMH
 Perth, Western Australia

DRUG:	PHENOBARBITONE SODIUM
PRESENTATION:	Ampoule: 200mg/mL Oral Solution: 10mg/mL
ACTION & INDICATION:	Anticonvulsant and sedative. For sedation, the treatment of neonatal seizures and for neonatal abstinence syndrome. Also used to treat hyperbilirubinemia in infants with jaundice.
DOSE:	Neonatal Seizures: Loading dose: 20mg/kg/dose. If no response, a further 10- 20mg/kg may be given Maintenance dose: 3 – 5 mg/kg/dose once daily commencing 24 hours after loading dose. Neonatal Jaundice: 5mg/kg/dose daily Neonatal abstinence syndrome: See NCCU guidelines at the back of this manual.
PREPARATION:	IM : Use undiluted IV : Dilute 200mg ampoule to 10mL, with Water for Injections = 20mg/mL
ADMINISTRATION:	Oral: Mixture is bitter and may be poorly tolerated. Consider administering a loading dose via the IGT if the infant has poor suck. Intramuscular: As per NCCU protocol. Intravenous, umbilical arterial / venous: Give over 10 to 15 minutes.
ADVERSE EFFECTS:	Hypotension, respiratory depression > 20mg/kg/dose may require mechanical ventilation. Paradoxical hyperactivity and irritability may occur. Injection is alkaline. Use small volumes to avoid tissue damage with IM use.
DRUG LEVELS:	Sampling time: just before next dose. Therapeutic range: 15 - 40mg/L Time to reach steady state: 2 weeks
REFERENCES:	Neofax 2013 Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13 th Ed Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne BNF for Children 2013
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