

NEONATAL MEDICATION PROTOCOLS

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

DRUG:	SILDENAFIL
PRESENTATION:	Mixture: 2mg/mL (prepared in Pharmacy)
ACTION & INDICATION:	Sildenafil is a selective pulmonary vasodilator. It is used in the treatment of pulmonary hypertension and to attempt to wean patients off nitric oxide.
DOSE:	Initially 250 – 500 microgram/kg/dose 4 – 8 hourly, adjusted according to response, to a maximum dose of 2mg/kg/dose 6 hourly. Patients concurrently receiving other vasodilators (including nitric oxide) should start with a lower dose.
ADMINISTRATION:	Oral: May be given at any time with regard to feeds.
ADVERSE EFFECTS:	Flushing, dyspepsia, headache, swelling of the eyelids, dizziness, visual disturbances, raised intra-ocular pressure, nasal congestion, vomiting, rash, serious cardiovascular disorders (including arrhythmia and sudden cardiac death). Sildenafil should not be used in patients receiving nitrates, those who have hypotension or hereditary degenerative retinal disorders.
COMMENTS:	Oxygen saturation must be continuously monitored when commencing sildenafil as it can acutely increase oxygen requirements due to ventilation/perfusion (V/Q) mismatch. Blood pressure and left ventricular performance should be monitored. If stopping sildenafil, it should be gradually withdrawn. Use with caution in patients with other cardiovascular diseases, bleeding or ocular disorders. Dosage adjustment may be required in patients with either renal or hepatic impairment. The mixture can be stored at room temperature.
REFERENCES:	BNF for Children 2013 Neofax 2013
DATE:	October 2013