





ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

**BETAMETHASONE**

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)

Presentation	Form	Active Ingredient	Strength	Size
	Ampoule	Betamethasone	5.7mg/mL	1mL
	Cream	Betamethasone dipropionate	0.05%	15g, 50g
		Betamethasone dipropionate in optimised vehicle (OV)	0.05%	30g
		Betamethasone valerate	0.02%	100g
		Betamethasone valerate	0.1%	30g
	Ointment	Betamethasone dipropionate	0.05%	15g, 50g
		Betamethasone dipropionate in optimised vehicle (OV)	0.05%	30g
		Betamethasone valerate	0.1%	30g
<b>Dose</b>	<p><b><u>Prevention of respiratory distress syndrome in premature infants (Antepartum Use)</u></b></p> <p><b>IM:</b> 11.4mg (2 ampoules). Repeat dose in 24 hours <i>A single course (2 doses) of betamethasone should be offered to all women between 23 to 36<sup>+6</sup> weeks gestation at risk of a preterm delivery within 7 days.</i></p> <p><b><u>Inflammatory Skin Conditions</u></b></p> <p><b>Topical:</b> Apply enough to cover affected area(s) ONCE or TWICE daily</p>			
<b>Administration</b>	<p><b><u>IM</u></b> Inject deep into a deep muscle</p> <p><b><u>Topical</u></b> Apply enough to cover affected areas. Smooth gently into skin, preferably after bathing. One fingertip unit (amount of cream/ointment from the tip of the index finger to the first crease) is enough to cover an area twice the size of the flat hand, including the fingers.</p>			

<b>Pregnancy</b>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:</b> Safe to use</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:</b> Safe to use</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:</b> Safe to use</p>
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	Considered safe to use
<b>Clinical Guidelines and Policies</b>	<p>KEMH Clinical Guideline: O&amp;G: <a href="#">Preterm Labour</a></p> <p>KEMH Clinical Guideline: O&amp;G: <a href="#">Corticosteroids: antenatal use of</a></p> <p>KEMH Clinical Guideline: O&amp;G: <a href="#">Hypertension in Pregnancy: Medical Management</a></p> <p>KEMH Clinical Guideline: O&amp;G: <a href="#">Diabetes in Pregnancy</a></p>
<b>References</b>	<p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Betamethasone. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2018 [cited 2018 OCT 26]. Available from: <a href="https://amhonline.amh.net.au/">https://amhonline.amh.net.au/</a></p> <p>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Preterm labour and birth: maternal corticosteroids. NICE guideline [NG25] 1.9 [Internet]. London: NICE; 2015 [updated 2015 Nov; cited 2018 Nov 2]. Available from: <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng25/chapter/Recommendations#maternal-corticosteroids">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng25/chapter/Recommendations#maternal-corticosteroids</a>.</p> <p>MIMS Australia. Betamethasone. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2018 [cited 2018 OCT 26]. Available from: <a href="https://www.mimsonline.com.au">https://www.mimsonline.com.au</a></p> <p>The Royal Women's Hospital. Betamethasone In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2016 [cited 2018 Nov 02]. Available from: <a href="https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/">https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/</a></p> <p>Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Betamethasone. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2018 [cited 2018 Nov 02]. Available from: <a href="http://aidh.hcn.com.au">http://aidh.hcn.com.au</a></p>

Keywords:	Betamethasone, cream, ointment, OV, Optimised Vehicle, Valerate, Dipropionate, steroid, corticosteroid, antenatal steroids, celestone, preterm birth		
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