# CHLORAL HYDRATE

This document should be read in conjunction with this **DISCLAIMER**

**Highly Restricted:** Requires Neonatologist approval before commencing

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**HIGH RISK Medication**

Repeat doses should be used with caution as drug and metabolites can accumulate. An overdose can be rapidly fatal.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Oral Solution: 1g/10mL = 100mg/mL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classification</td>
<td>CNS depressant, sedative</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Indication | • Sedative (short term use)  
• Sedation during diagnostic procedure |
| Dose | **Sedative (short term use)**  
**Oral:**  
8mg/kg/dose every 6 to 8 hours  
**Sedation during diagnostic procedure**  
**Oral:**  
25 to 50mg/kg as a single dose, given 30 minutes prior to procedure |
| Dose Adjustment | Do not use in significant renal or hepatic impairment, more likely to lead to accumulation.  
Repeat doses should be used with caution as drug and metabolites accumulate with repeated use |
| Guidelines & Resources | Central Venous Access Devices Insertion, Management and Removal  
Pain Assessment and Management  
Cardiac: Routine Post-Operative Care |
| Preparation | Oral liquid should be diluted to at least 1:3 with water or milk/infant formula to reduce gastric irritation.  
**Example:**  
For a dose of 50mg (0.5mL) – add 1.5mL water to a final volume of 2mL |
Administration | Administer diluted liquid after a feed to minimise gastric irritation

Monitoring | Respiration, heart rate, oxygen saturation, liver function tests, blood pressure, level of sedation

Adverse Reactions | **Common:** Respiratory depression, myocardial depression, CNS depression, vomiting, diarrhoea (particularly if given on an empty stomach). paradoxical excitement, airway obstruction  
**Serious:** Arrhythmias, hyperbilirubinaemia

Storage | Store below 25°C - Protect from light

Interactions | May have additive effect with opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates leading to respiratory depression.

Notes | Onset of action is 15 to 30 minutes and duration is up to 2 hours. Chloral hydrate is not to be used to manage pain  
**Caution:** metabolites have long serum half-lives which accumulate with repeated doses.

References |  

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