



NEONATAL

FLECAINIDE

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

Highly Restricted: Requires Cardiologist approval before commencing




⚠ HIGH RISK Medication

Although flecainide may be effective in supraventricular arrhythmias in patients with structural heart disease, its use has been associated with life threatening and occasionally fatal ventricular arrhythmias. Use with extreme caution, preferably after other antiarrhythmic drugs have been tried or considered inappropriate.

Presentation	Ampoule: 150mg/15mL = 10mg/mL Oral Suspension : 25mg/5mL (SAS) – PCH 2mg/mL (Prepared in Pharmacy) – KEMH
Classification	Membrane stabilizing antiarrhythmic agent.
Indication	Used for the suppression and prevention of ventricular arrhythmias and supraventricular tachycardia. Used as a second-line agent where tachycardia has been resistant to first-line agents.
Contraindication	Use caution in patients with congenital heart disease—increased potential for pro-arrhythmic effects Cardiogenic shock Hypersensitivity to flecainide or any component of the formulation Second or third degree heart block without pacemaker Right bundle branch block (when associated with a left hemiblock) without pacemaker
Precautions	Correct pre-existing hypokalemia or hyperkalemia before administration Use with caution in renal and hepatic impairment

Dose	<p><i>Consult Cardiology</i></p> <p><u>ORAL: (preferred route)</u></p> <p>Initially 2mg/ kg/ dose every 12 hours</p> <p>Adjust dose according to response and serum concentration</p> <p>Maximum dose: 8mg/ kg /day</p> <p><u>IV:</u></p> <p>0.5mg/ kg/ dose</p> <p>Maximum dose: 2mg/ kg</p>
Compatible Fluids	Glucose 5%
Preparation	<p><u>Oral:</u></p> <p>PCH – Use SAS Formulation</p> <p>KEMH - Use solution prepared in Pharmacy</p> <p>If solution not available – prepare the following solution using 100mg flecainide tablets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispense ONE flecainide tablet (100mg) in 10mL of water. Tablet will disperse within 1-2 minutes • Concentration is 100mg/10mL = 10mg/mL • Discard any unused solution • <p><u>IV Infusion</u></p> <p>Use undiluted</p>
Administration	<p><u>Oral:</u></p> <p>Separate from feeds as milk may reduce absorption of flecainide.</p> <p><u>IV:</u></p> <p>Infuse over 10 to 30 minutes</p>
Adverse Reactions	<p>Common: new or worsened arrhythmia, bradycardia, photopsia, dyspnoea</p> <p>Serious: Cardiac arrest, cardiac dysrhythmia, cardiogenic shock, abnormal electrocardiogram, heart block, heart failure, prolonged QT interval, sinus node dysfunction, torsades de pointes, ventricular fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia</p>

Monitoring	<p>ECG, blood pressure, pulse, periodic serum concentrations after at least 5 doses when doses are started or changed</p> <p>Time to reach steady state – 5-7 days</p> <p>Reference Range:</p> <p>Therapeutic trough plasma level 0.2 – 1 mg/L</p> <p>Sampling time – prior to next dose</p>
Guidelines & Resources	<p>Flecainide PCH</p>
Storage	<p><u>Oral:</u></p> <p>Store at room temperature</p> <p>DO NOT refrigerate as crystallisation may occur</p> <p><u>IV:</u></p> <p>Store ampoule at room temperature</p>
Interactions	<p>Flecainide interacts with a number of medications- consult Pharmacy for further advice.</p>
Notes	<p>Milk reduces absorption of flecainide – monitor plasma trough flecainide levels with major changes in dietary milk intake.</p> <p>SAS Forms are to be completed for Oral Suspension – PCH</p>
References	<p>Truven Health Analytics. Flecainide. In: NeoFax [Internet]. Greenwood Village (CO): Truven Health Analytics; 2019 [cited 2019 Oct 08]. Available from: https://neofax.micromedexsolutions.com/</p> <p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Flecainide. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2019 [cited 2019 Oct 08]. Available from: https://amhonline.amh.net.au/</p> <p>Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Flecainide In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2019 [cited 2019 Oct 08]. Available from: http://aidh.hcn.com.au</p> <p>Plover C, Porrello E. Paediatric injectable guidelines 2019 ed. Flemington (Victoria): The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne; 2019</p> <p>Takemoto CK, Hodding JH, Kraus DM. Pediatric & neonatal dosage handbook with international trade names index : a universal resource for clinicians treating pediatric and neonatal patients. 24th ed. Hudson (Ohio): Lexicomp; 2019</p>

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