



NEONATAL

CHLORAL HYDRATE

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



Highly Restricted: Requires Neonatologist approval before commencing

⚠ HIGH RISK Medication

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

Presentation	Oral Solution: 1g/10mL = 100mg/mL
Classification	CNS depressant, sedative
Indication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedative (short term use) • Sedation during diagnostic procedure
Dose	<p><u>Sedative (short term use)</u></p> <p>Oral: 8mg/ kg/ dose every 6 to 8 hours</p> <p><u>Sedation during diagnostic procedure</u></p> <p>Oral: 25 to 50mg/kg as a single dose, given 30 minutes prior to procedure</p>
Dose Adjustment	<p>Do not use in significant renal or hepatic impairment, more likely to lead to accumulation.</p> <p>Repeat doses should be used with caution as drug and metabolites accumulate with repeated use</p>
Guidelines & Resources	<p>Central Venous Access Devices Insertion, Management and Removal</p> <p>Pain Assessment and Management</p> <p>Cardiac: Routine Post-Operative Care</p>
Preparation	<p>Oral liquid should be diluted to at least 1:3 with water or milk/infant formula to reduce gastric irritation.</p> <p><u>Example:</u> For a dose of 50mg (0.5mL) – add 1.5mL water to a final volume of 2mL</p>

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	<p>Common: Respiratory depression, myocardial depression, CNS depression, vomiting, diarrhoea (particularly if given on an empty stomach). paradoxical excitement, airway obstruction</p> <p>Serious: Arrhythmias, hyperbilirubinaemia</p>
Storage	Store below 25°C - Protect from light
Interactions	May have additive effect with opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates leading to respiratory depression.
Notes	<p>Onset of action is 15 to 30 minutes and duration is up to 2 hours.</p> <p>Chloral hydrate is not to be used to manage pain</p> <p>Caution: metabolites have long serum half-lives which accumulate with repeated doses.</p>
References	<p>Ainsworth SB. Neonatal formulary 7: drug use in pregnancy and the first year of life. Seventh ed. Chichester (West Sussex): John Wiley & Sons Inc.; 2015. 631 p144</p> <p>Truven Health Analytics. Chloral Hydrate. In: NeoFax [Internet]. Greenwood Village (CO): Truven Health Analytics; 2019 [cited 2019 Sep 10]. Available from: https://neofax.micromedexsolutions.com/</p> <p>Cruise S, Tam-Chan D, Harrison D, Johnston L. Prospective clinical audit of chloral hydrate administration practices in a neonatal unit. Journal of paediatrics and child health. Nov 2012;48(11):1010-1015.</p> <p>MIMS Australia. Chloral hydrate. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2018 [cited 2019 Oct 9]. Available from: https://www.mimsonline.com.au</p>

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