

DIAZEPAM

Read in conjunction with [Disclaimer](#)

HIGH RISK Medication

Formulary: Highly Restricted Requires neonatologist or neurology approval before commencing.	
Presentation	Ampoule: 10 mg/2 mL = 5 mg/mL = 5000 microg/mL
Drug Class	Benzodiazepine
Indication	Management of Seizures
Special Considerations	Not recommended as a first line agent; use only after multiple agents have failed. Midazolam is preferred benzodiazepine for seizures.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for CNS and respiratory depression • Heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation
Compatibility	Fluids: Sodium Chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5%
Incompatibility	Extensive list of incompatibilities, avoid mixing with other medications. Contact Pharmacy for further information.
Interactions	Concomitant use with other CNS depressant can increase CNS and respiratory effects.
Side Effects	<p>Common: Drowsiness, Bradycardia, Hypotension, Apnoea, Respiratory depression</p> <p>Infrequent: Pain and Thrombophlebitis, Arrhythmias, Respiratory and Cardiac Arrest</p> <p>Rare: Blood disorders, Jaundice, Transient elevated liver function tests, Allergic reactions, Abnormal movement of limbs</p>
Storage & Stability	Schedule 4 Restricted Medication
Storage & Stability	Ampoule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store below 25°C. Protect from light • Dilution of diazepam can result in loss of potency – Use diluted solution immediately after preparation.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propylene glycol and ethanol content may cause toxic effects in patients receiving high or repeated doses. • Flumazenil (see monograph) is used as the reversal agent for diazepam.

INTRAVENOUS PUSH

Presentation (for IV use)	Ampoule: 10 mg/2 mL = 5 mg/mL = 5000 microg/mL
Dosage	<p>Management of Seizures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 to 300 microg/kg/dose given over 3 to 5 mins • Repeat every 15 to 30 mins as necessary • Maximum total daily dose of 2000 microg <p>Dose adjustment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renal impairment: Start with smaller doses in severe impairment. • Hepatic impairment: Start with smaller doses in severe impairment.
Preparation	<p>For doses greater than 500 microg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use undiluted. <p><i>Concentration equal to 5000 microg/mL</i></p> <hr/> <p>For doses less than 500 microg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up 5000 microg (1 mL) and make up to 25 mL total volume with compatible fluid. • Use diluted solution immediately. Do not administer if solution is cloudy. <p><i>Concentration now equal to 200 microg/mL</i></p>
Administration	<p>IV push:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV by slow injection over at least 3 to 5 minutes, do not exceed a rate of 2000 microg/min. • Rapid IV injection may increase risk of side effects such as apnoea, respiratory depression, hypotension. Close observation is required during administration. See Monitoring.



Related Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

[MP 0131/20: WA High Risk Medication Policy](#)

Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Neonatology – Seziures: Neonatal](#)

[Neonatology – Medication Administration](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[High Risk Medicines](#)

[Schedule 4 Restricted \(S4R\) and Schedule 8 \(S8\) Medications](#)

References

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. p.179-180

Phelps SJ, Hageman TM, Lee KR, Thompson AJ. Pediatric injectable drugs : the teddy bear book. Tenth ed. Bethesda (Maryland): American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2018. p.288-291

Australian Medicines Handbook. Diazepam. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2024 [cited 2024 Jan 25]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

British National Formulary. BNF for Children. 2018-19 ed. London, UK: BMJ Group and Pharmaceutical Press; 2018. p. 220-221.

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Diazepam. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2024 [cited 2024 Jan 25]. Available from: <http://aidh.hcn.com.au>

Document history

Keywords	Anticonvulsant, Sedation, Benzodiazepine, Seziures, Diazepam				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH & PCH Pharmacy/Neonatology Directorate				
Version Info:	4.0				
Date First Issued:	31/08/2001	Last Reviewed:	28/05/2024	Review Date:	28/05/2029
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Directorate Management Group			Date:	25/06/2024
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety		
Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. Access the current version from WNHS HealthPoint.					

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© North Metropolitan Health Service 2024