



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Flumazenil

Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

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Restrictions

[Formulary: Restricted](#)

Medication Class

Antidote

Presentation

Ampoule: 500 microgram/5 mL

Storage

Store in a cool dry place, below 25°C

Dose

Reversal of benzodiazepine effects at therapeutic doses (anaesthesia or sedation)

IV:

Initial dose of 0.2 mg within 15 seconds.

If the desired degree of consciousness is not obtained within 60 seconds following the first dose, a second dose of 0.1 mg can be injected. This may be repeated at 60 second intervals where necessary up to a total dose of 1 mg.

The usual total dose is 0.3-0.6 mg.

Reversal of benzodiazepine effects at overdose (known or suspected)

IV:

Initial dose 0.2 mg.

If the desired degree of consciousness is not obtained within 60 seconds, dosing may be repeated until the patient awakes or up to a total dose of 2mg.

Maintenance dose (if indicated): half the initial dose needed to waken the patient every hour by continuous infusions (0.1-0.4 mg/hour), titrated to response.

Administration

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

Monitoring

Observe patient for at least 4 hours after the last dose of flumazenil for signs of re-sedation because many benzodiazepines have a longer half-life than flumazenil.

Use cautiously in patients with epilepsy, patients who have a known or suspected benzodiazepine dependency and those who have been treated with high doses of benzodiazepines for the weeks preceding treatment. May cause benzodiazepine withdrawal syndrome which include symptoms such as tachycardia, agitation and seizures.

Longer observation of people with hepatic impairment may be needed as they can experience delayed effects of benzodiazepines.

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Monitoring required

2nd Trimester: Monitoring required

3rd Trimester: Monitoring required

Flumazenil should only be used if it is the medicine of choice, and monitoring of fetal heart rate at birth is recommended.

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Breastfeeding

Monitoring required.

Flumazenil has a short half-life which limits its transfer into breast milk. However, if flumazenil is the medicine of choice, the breastfed infant should be observed for signs of adverse effects such as vomiting, agitation and cutaneous vasodilation.

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Anaesthetics Protocol: Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocols](#)

[Resuscitation Trolley/Warmer/Cart Checking and Equipment \(Adult and Neonatal\)](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Medication Administration](#)









References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Flumazenil. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2023 [cited 2023 Jan 31]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

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Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Flumazenil. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2020 [cited 2023 Jan 31]. Available from <https://aidh-hcn-com-au>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Flumazenil. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2022 [cited 2023 Jan 31]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmq.org.au/>

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