



ADULT Medication Monograph

FLUMAZENIL




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

[Formulary: Restricted](#)

Class	Antidote
Presentation	Ampoule: 500microgram/5mL
Storage	Keep in a cool dry place below 25°C
Dose	<p><u>Reversal of benzodiazepine effects at therapeutic doses (anaesthesia or sedation)</u></p> <p>IV:</p> <p>Initial dose of 0.2mg administered IV within 15 seconds.</p> <p>If the desired degree of consciousness is not obtained within 60 seconds following the first IV administration, a second dose of 0.1mg can be injected. This may be repeated at 60 second intervals where necessary up to a total dose of 1mg.</p> <p>The usual total dose is 0.3-0.6mg.</p> <p><u>Reversal of benzodiazepine effects at overdose (known or suspected)</u></p> <p>IV:</p> <p>Initially 0.3-1mg, repeated as necessary to a total of 2mg</p> <p>Maintenance dose (if indicated): half the initial dose needed to waken the patient given every hour by continuous infusion (0.1-0.4mg/hour)</p>
Administration	<p><u>IV Injection</u></p> <p>Inject the dose undiluted over 15 seconds. Inject into a free-flowing IV infusion line to minimise pain and phlebitis at the injection site.</p> <p><u>IV Infusion</u></p> <p>Dilute with a compatible fluid (Sodium Chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5%, Hartmann's) and infuse at a rate of 100–500 microgram/hour.</p>
Pregnancy	<p>1st Trimester: Monitoring Required</p> <p>2nd Trimester: Monitoring Required</p> <p>3rd Trimester: Monitoring Required</p> <p>Flumazenil should only be used if it is the medicine of choice.</p>

	<p>Monitoring of fetal heart rate at birth is recommended, as withdrawal symptoms may occur in the neonate.</p> <p>For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.</p>
Breastfeeding	<p>Monitoring Required</p> <p>The short half-life of flumazenil will limit the transfer of the medicine into the breast milk. However, if it is the medicine of choice, observe the infant for signs of adverse effects such as vomiting, agitation and cutaneous vasodilation.</p> <p>For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.</p>
Monitoring	<p>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-lives than flumazenil.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Hepatic – longer observation of people with hepatic impairment may be needed as they can experience delayed effects of benzodiazepines.</p>
Clinical Guidelines and Policies	<p>KEMH Clinical Guidelines:</p> <p>Pain and Anaesthesia: Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocols</p> <p>Resuscitation Trolley Checking & Equipment (Adult & Neonatal)</p> <p>KEMH Pharmaceutical & Medicines Management Guidelines:</p> <p>KEMH Pharmaceutical & Medicines Management Guideline: Medication Administration</p>
References	<p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Flumazenil. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2020 [cited 2020 July 02]. Available from: https://amhonline.amh.net.au/chapters/antidotes-antivenoms/antidotes/flumazenil</p> <p>The Royal Women's Hospital. Flumazenil. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2020 [cited 2020 July 02]. Available from: https://thewomenspbmg-org-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/medicines/flumazenil/</p> <p>MIMS Australia. Flumazenil Kabi. In: MIMS Online [Internet]. St Leonards (New South Wales): MIMS Australia; 2020 [cited 2020 July 02]. Available from: https://www.mimsonline.com.au</p>

	Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Flumazenil. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2020 [cited 2020 July 02]. Available from: https://aidh-hcn-com-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/browse/f/flumazenil
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For any enquiries relating to this guideline, please email KEMH.PharmacyAdmin@health.wa.gov.au

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