

FLECAINIDE


Read in conjunction with [Disclaimer](#)



! **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.

Formulary: Highly Restricted Requires Cardiologist approval before commencing	
Special Access Scheme (SAS): Category A	
Presentation	Oral suspension: PCH: 25 mg/5 mL (SAS) KEMH: 2 mg/mL (prepared in pharmacy)
Drug Class	Membrane stabilising antiarrhythmic agent
Indication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppression and prevention of ventricular arrhythmias and supraventricular tachycardia. • Second-line agent where tachycardia has been resistant to first-line agents.
Special Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct pre-existing hypokalemia or hyperkalemia before administration • Use with caution in renal and hepatic impairment • Use caution in patients with congenital heart disease—increased potential for pro-arrhythmic effects Contraindications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Monitoring	ECG, blood pressure, pulse, periodic serum concentrations after at least 5 doses when doses are started or changed Time to reach steady state – 5-7 days Reference Range: Therapeutic trough plasma level 0.2 – 1 mg/L Sampling time – prior to next dose Milk reduces absorption of flecainide – monitor plasma trough flecainide levels with major changes in dietary milk intake.
Interactions	Flecainide interacts with a number of medications – consult Pharmacy for advice.

Side effects	Common: new or worsened arrhythmia, bradycardia, photopsia, dyspnoea
	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
Storage & Stability	Oral Suspension: Store at room temperature. DO NOT refrigerate as crystallisation may occur
Comments	SAS Forms are to be completed for Oral Suspension at PCH

ORAL	Presentation	Oral Suspension: 25 mg/5 mL (SAS) – PCH 2 mg/mL (prepared in pharmacy) – KEMH	
	Dosage	Consult Cardiology Initially 1 to 2 mg/kg/dose every 12 hours Adjust dose according to response and serum concentration Maximum dose: 8 mg/kg/day	
	Preparation	PCH – Use SAS formulation KEMH – Use suspension prepared in Pharmacy <i>If solution not available – prepare the following solution using 100 mg flecainide tablets:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disperse ONE flecainide tablet (100 mg) in 50 mL of water for injection Tablet will disperse within 1-2 minutes Concentration is 100 mg/50 mL = 2 mg/mL Discard any unused solution immediately 	
	Administration	Separate from feeds as milk may reduce absorption of flecainide	

INTRAVENOUS	 ALERT Intravenous flecainide is avoided.	
	If flecainide is to be administered intravenously it can ONLY be done in the presence of a Cardiologist. Contact pharmacy for preparation and administration advice if required.	

Related Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

CAHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Cardiac Arrhythmias](#)

[Cardiac Arrest and Arrhythmias in NICU: Treatment Algorithms](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[High Risk Medicines](#)

References

Truven Health Analytics. Flecainide. In: NeoFax [Internet]. Greenwood Village (CO): Truven Health Analytics; 2019 [cited 2019 Oct 08]. Available from: <https://neofax.micromedexsolutions.com/>



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/>

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>

Plover C, Porrello E. Paediatric injectable guidelines 2019 ed. Flemington (Victoria): The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne; 2019

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

Document history

Keywords	Flecainide, Tambocor, SVT, cardiac, arrhythmias, cardiology				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH & PCH Pharmacy/Neonatology Directorate				
Version Info:	V4.0 – amendment: removed IV administration, updated template (Oct 2023)				
Date First Issued:	08/2013	Last Reviewed:	10/2019	Review Date:	10/2024
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Directorate Management Group			Date:	07/12/2023
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.