# BETAMETHASONE

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

| Presentation | Ampoule: 5.7mg/mL  
| | Cream: 0.05% [Dipropionate] 15g, 50g  
| | Cream (Optimised Vehicle): 0.05% [Dipropionate OV] 30g  
| | Cream: 0.02% [Valerate] 100g  
| | Cream: 0.1% [Valerate] 30g  
| | Ointment: 0.05% [Dipropionate] 15g  
| | Ointment (Optimised Vehicle): 0.05% [Dipropionate] 30g  
| | Ointment: 0.1% [Valerate] 30g |

| Dose | **Antepartum use in the prevention of respiratory distress syndrome in premature infants**  
| | **IM**: 11.4mg (2 ampoules). Repeat dose in 24 hours  
| | A single course (2 doses) of betamethasone should be offered to all women between 23 to 34 weeks gestation at risk of a preterm delivery within 7 days. |

| Administration | **IM**  
| | Inject deep into a deep muscle  
| | **Topical**  
| | Apply enough to cover affected areas. Smooth gently into skin, preferably after bathing. One fingertip unit (amount of cream/ointment from the tip of the index finger to the first crease) is enough to cover an area twice the size of the flat hand, including the fingers. |

| Pregnancy | **1st Trimester**: Topical: Safe to use; Injection: may slightly increase the risk of orofacial clefts  
| | **2nd Trimester**: Safe to use  
| | **3rd Trimester**: Safe to use |

| Breastfeeding | Considered safe to use |

| Clinical Guidelines and | **Preterm Labour**  
| | Antenatal corticosteroids to reduce neonatal morbidity and mortality |
### Policies

- Hypertension in Pregnancy
- Pregnant Women with Diabetes requiring Insulin or Oral Hypoglycaemic Agents (OHA'S) - Management
- MFAU QRG Assessment for Confirmed Fetal IUGR

### References


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- Betamethasone, cream, ointment, OV, Optimised Vehicle, Valerate, Dipropionate, steroid, corticosteroid

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### Standards Applicable:

- NSQHS Standards:
  1. Clinical Care is Guided by Current Best Practice
  2. Medication Safety

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