**DRUG:** PHENOBARBITONE SODIUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENTATION:</th>
<th>Ampoule: 200mg/mL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oral Solution: 10mg/mL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACTION & INDICATION:** Anticonvulsant and sedative.
For sedation, the treatment of neonatal seizures and for neonatal abstinence syndrome.
Also used to treat hyperbilirubinemia in infants with jaundice.

**DOSE:**

- **Neonatal Seizures:**
  - Loading dose: 20mg/kg/dose. If no response, a further 10-20mg/kg may be given
  - Maintenance dose: 3-5mg/kg/dose once daily commencing 24 hours after loading dose.
- **Neonatal Jaundice:** 5mg/kg/dose daily
- **Neonatal abstinence syndrome:** See NCCU guidelines at the back of this manual.

**PREPARATION:**

- **IM:** Use undiluted

- **IV:** Dilute 200mg ampoule to 10mL, with Water for Injections = 20mg/mL

**ADMINISTRATION:**

- **Oral:** Mixture is bitter and may be poorly tolerated. Consider administering a loading dose via the IGT if the infant has poor suck.

- **Intramuscular:** As per NCCU protocol.

- **Intravenous, umbilical arterial / venous:** Give over 10 to 15 minutes.

**ADVERSE EFFECTS:**

- Hypotension, respiratory depression
- >20mg/kg/dose may require mechanical ventilation.
- Paradoxical hyperactivity and irritability may occur.
- Injection is alkaline. Use small volumes to avoid tissue damage with IM use.

**DRUG LEVELS:**

- **Sampling time:** Just before next dose.
- **Therapeutic range:** 15 - 40mg/L
- **Time to reach steady state:** 2 weeks

**REFERENCES:**

- Neofax 2013
- Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13th Ed Royal Women’s Hospital Melbourne
- BNF for Children 2013

**DATE:** October 2013

---

This document should be read in conjunction with the NCCU Disclaimer.