**DRUG:** PHENYTOIN SODIUM  
**PRESENTATION:** Ampoule: 50mg/mL 2mL 5mL  
Oral Solution: 100mg/5mL  
**ACTION & INDICATION:** Anticonvulsant indicated for the control of grand mal and psychomotor seizures unresponsive to phenobarbitone.  
**DOSE:** Loading dose: 15-20mg/kg  
*Maintenance Dose:*  
Commence 12 hours after loading dose  

| <37 weeks | ≤14 days | 2mg/kg/dose 12 hourly |  
| >14 days | 5mg/kg/dose 12 hourly |  
| ≥37 weeks | ≤14 days | 4mg/kg/dose 12 hourly |  
| >14 days | 5mg/kg/dose 8 hourly |  
**PREPARATION:** IV: Withdraw required the dose. Dilute 1 part to 10 with 0.9% Sodium Chloride only.  
Infusion must be completed within one hour of preparation.  
**ADMINISTRATION:** Oral: Flush IGT prior to, and after, each oral dose. Separate dose time from feeds.  
Intravenous: Over 30-60 minutes. Flush line with sodium chloride 0.9%, before and after administration.  
*DO NOT GIVE BY IA, IM or SC route.*  
**ADVERSE EFFECTS:** CNS depression, bradycardia, hypotension, cardiovascular collapse, feed intolerance, rash, blood dyscrasias.  
Vein irritation tissue necrosis, avoid extravasation.  
**COMMENTS:** Oral absorption is poor, avoid during the first week.  
**DRUG LEVELS:** Sampling time: Just before next dose  
Trough level: 10-20mg/L (40-80 micromol/mL)  
Time to reach steady state: 1 week (highly variable)  
If dose changed re-assay after 5-7 days.  
**REFERENCES:** Neofax 2013  
Neonatal Pharmacopoeia 2nd Ed Royal Women’s Hospital Melbourne  
**DATE:** October 2013