# ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

## Pethidine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope (Staff):</th>
<th>All WNHS Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope (Area):</td>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynaecology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

### Quick Links

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Pregnancy and Breastfeeding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Restrictions

- **Formulary:** Restricted
- **HIGH RISK Medication**

### Medication Class

- Opioid analgesic

### Presentation

- **Ampoules:** 50mg/1mL
- **CADD:** 500mg in sodium chloride 0.9%

### Storage

- Store at room temperature, below 25°C

### Dose

#### Obstetric Analgesia

- **IM:**
  - 50 - 100mg initially, may repeat after 1 to 3 hours. Maximum of 300mg in 24 hours. Do not use within 2 hours of anticipated delivery

#### Patient Controlled Epidural Analgesia (PCEA)

Refer to [WNHS Labour and Post-Operative Analgesia](#)
## Administration

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#).

**IM**

Preferred method for repeat doses. Inject into large muscle. Rotate injection site to avoid fibrosis of muscle tissue. Ensure patient is seated or lying down.

**PCEA**

Refer to [WNHS Labour and Post-Operative Analgesia](#).

## Monitoring

Sedation, respiratory depression, nausea and vomiting, constipation.

Norpethidine toxicity may occur within 24 hours of starting pethidine. Early signs include anxiety and agitation; tremor, muscle twitching and seizures may occur later.

May increase risk of serotonin toxicity when use with other serotonergic medications.

Decrease dose in hepatic impairment.

## Pregnancy

1\textsuperscript{st} Trimester: Considered safe to use

2\textsuperscript{nd} Trimester: Considered safe to use

3\textsuperscript{rd} Trimester: Considered safe to use

Pethidine is considered safe to use during pregnancy at the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible.

## Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use.

Pethidine is considered safe to use during breastfeeding at the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible.

## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

- [Labour and Post-Operative Analgesia](#)
- [Pain Management](#)
- [WNHS Perioperative Preparation and Management](#)
- [Restricted Schedule 4 (S4R) and Schedule 8 (S8) Medications](#)
- [Perioperative Handling of Controlled Drugs](#)
- [High Risk Medication Policy](#)
References


The health impact upon Aboriginal people has been considered, and where relevant incorporated and appropriately addressed in the development of this document (insert ISD Number). (Please refer to the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration for Department of Health and Health Service Provider Guidelines – please delete once you have completed this).

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© Women and Newborn Health Service 2020

Copyright of this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under
the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.