



## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

# ARTESUNATE

<b>Scope (Staff):</b>	All WNHS Staff
<b>Scope (Area):</b>	Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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

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### Restrictions

[Formulary: Restricted](#)

[SAS Category A](#) (item requires approval by TGA)

### Medication Class

**Drug class:** Antimalarial

### Presentation

**Form:** 60mg vial

Each pack contains:

- 1x 60mg vial artesunate powder
- 1x 1mL ampoule sodium bicarbonate 5%
- 1x 5mL ampoule sodium chloride 0.9%

### Storage

Store at room temperature, below 30°C. Protect from light.

## Dose

### Severe Malaria

#### **Intravenous injection (IV):**

2.4mg/kg on admission and repeat at 12 hours and 24 hours, then ONCE daily until patient has clinically improved and can tolerate oral therapy

## Administration

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

### Reconstitution:

#### **Step 1 Reconstitution:**

- Reconstitute the vial with 1 mL of sodium bicarbonate 5% to make a concentration of 60mg/mL.
- Shake gently for 2 to 3 minutes until completely dissolved.
- The powder is difficult to dissolve. The solution is cloudy at first and becomes clear after a few minutes.

**Step 2 Dilution:** Dilute the reconstituted solution with 5 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% to make a final concentration of 10 mg/mL and a total volume of 6 mL

**Step 3 Administration:** Inject slowly over 1 to 2 minutes.

## Monitoring

- Monitor for haemolytic anaemia for 4 weeks after treatment
- Severe haemolysis may occur in patients with hyperparasitaemia 2–4 weeks after treatment; tell patients that this may occur and arrange suitable follow-up

## Pregnancy

Artesunate treatment benefits outweigh the harms in all trimesters

**1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:** Consider alternative – do not withhold in severe malaria

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use

Use of artesunate in a meta-analysis of 717 pregnancies was not associated with adverse outcomes.

## Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use. Monitor infant for nausea and vomiting.

## Comments

- Advise patient that treatment with this drug must be followed by a complete treatment course of the prescribed oral antimalarial regimen

## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

### Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in HealthCare Standards:

[ACSQHC Standards>The NSQHS Standards>Preventing and Controlling Infections Standard>Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

### HDWA Mandatory Policies:

WATAG Advisory Note: [Emergency treatment of malaria in public hospitals](#)

### WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

WNHS Policy: [Antimicrobial Stewardship \(AMS\) Policy](#)

### WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Medication Management Framework](#)

## References

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