## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

### EPHEDRINE

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### Restrictions

- **Formulary:** Unrestricted

### Medication Class

- Sympathomimetic agent

### Presentation

There are 2 different salts: Ephedrine Hydrochloride and Ephedrine Sulfate

**Prefilled Syringe:** 30mg/10mL Ephedrine Hydrochloride (IV injection)

**Ampoule:** 30mg/mL Ephedrine Sulfate (IV/IM injection)

### Storage

- **Prefilled syringe:** Store below 30 °C. Protect from light
- **Ampoule:** Store below 25 °C. Protect from light

### Dose

**Indication 1: Epidural complications – hypotension**

- **Route:** IV
- **Dose:** Use Prefilled syringe (which is already diluted) and give in 6mg increments (i.e. 2mL)
  - If Prefilled syringe is unavailable, then use 30mg ampoule and dilute to 10mL with sodium chloride 0.9% and give in 6mg (2mL) increments.
Indication 2: Hypotension secondary to neuraxial anaesthesia

Route: IM or IV
Refer to KEMH Clinical Guideline: Pain and Anaesthesia: Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocols

Administration

IV injection: Preferred route when an immediate response is required.
IM injection: Suitable for Ephedrine Sulfate only.
Refer to the Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook

Monitoring

Signs of extravasation
Monitor blood pressure and urinary output. Continuous cardiac monitoring is recommended

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Monitoring required
2nd Trimester: Monitoring required
3rd Trimester: Monitoring required
For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Breastfeeding

On an acute basis, it is not likely to harm a breastfeeding infant. However, it should not be used regularly by breastfeeding mothers.
For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Comments

There are 2 different salts forms i.e. Ephedrine Hydrochloride and Ephedrine Sulfate

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

KEMH Clinical Guideline: Pain and Anaesthesia: Adult Resuscitation Drug Protocols
KEMH Clinical Guideline: Pain and Anaesthesia: Labour Analgesia Epidural Complications
KEMH Clinical Guidelines: O&G: Caesarean birth: Uterine tone and caesarean birth: Pharmacological management

References

Keywords

Ephedrine, hydrochloride, sulfate, hypotension, resuscitation, epidural complications

Document Owner: Chief Pharmacist

Author/Reviewer: KEMH Pharmacy Department

Version Info: 4.0

Date First Issued: March 2014
Last Reviewed: 09/05/2022
Review Date: 09/05/2025

Endorsed by: Medicines and Therapeutics Committee
Date: 07/09/2022

NSQHS Standards Applicable:

- Std 1: Clinical Governance
- Std 4: Medication Safety
- Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration

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