



## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

# Famotidine

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

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

## Quick Links

[Dose](#)

[Administration](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Pregnancy and  
Breastfeeding](#)

## Restrictions

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

[Formulary: Restricted](#) (injection)

[SAS Category A](#) (injectable formulation only requires approval by TGA)

## Medication Class

Histamine 2 receptor antagonist (*H2 antagonist*)

## Presentation

**Tablet:** 20 mg, 40 mg

**Vial (SAS):** 20 mg /2 mL

## Storage

**Tablet:** Store at room temperature, below 30°C.

**Vial (SAS):** Store at 2 to 8°C. Protect from light. Diluted solution may be stored at 2 to 8°C for up to 24 hours.

## Dose

### Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) or Dyspepsia

**Oral:**

20 mg once or twice daily.

**Peptic Ulcer Disease****Oral:**

Initiation: 40 mg once daily in the evening for 4 to 8 weeks.

Maintenance: 20 mg once daily in the evening.

**Gastric aspiration prevention in caesarean section or operative birth****Oral:**

40 mg as a single dose, at least 1 hour pre-operatively on the day of surgery OR

40 mg 12 hourly for women in labour at high risk of requiring operative birth as selected by the anaesthetist in consultation with obstetric staff.

**Intravenous:**

20 mg as a single dose, between 40 to 90 minutes pre-operatively.

**Nausea and vomiting in pregnancy (adjunct therapy)****Oral:**

20 mg once or twice daily.

**Administration**

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

**IV Push**

**Step 1 Dilution:** Dilute 20 mg (2 mL) of solution up to 5 to 10 mL with sodium chloride 0.9%.

**Step 2 Administration:** Inject over a minimum of 2 minutes.

**Oral**

Can be given with or without food.

Tablets may be crushed or dispersed in water.

**Monitoring**

Dose reduction is requirement in renal impairment.

**Pregnancy**

**1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use.

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

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

## Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use.

## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

[Caesarean Birth](#)

[Pregnancy care: First trimester complications](#)

[Discomforts in Pregnancy: Common](#)

[Abnormalities of Lie / Presentation](#)

[Nausea and vomiting in pregnancy patient leaflet](#)

## References

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