Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Women and Newborn Health Service

ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
NITROFURANTOIN	
Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Administration	Monitoring	Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Restrictions

Formulary: Restricted

Medication Class

Anti-infective

Presentation

Form: 50 mg, 100 mg

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Dose

Acute Cystitis or Asymptomatic Bacteriuria

Oral:

100 mg orally, 6 hourly for 5 days

Continuous prophylaxis of UTI and bacteriuria in pregnancy

Oral:

50 mg orally, at night until 37 weeks gestation (second line option)

Intermittent postcoital prophylaxis of UTI and bacteriuria in pregnancy

Oral:

50 mg orally, as a single dose, taken within 2 hours after sexual intercourse; maximum of one dose daily.

Administration

Oral:

Take with food or milk to reduce nausea and to improve absorption

Monitoring

This medicine may cause drowsiness or dizziness

Monitor for difficulty breathing, development of a cough, numbness or tingling

May turn urine a brownish colour

In long term treatment, monitor pulmonary, renal and liver function

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Safe to use

2nd Trimester: Safe to use

3rd Trimester: Monitoring required

Avoid in last 4 weeks of pregnancy due to increased risk of jaundice and haemolytic anaemia in G6PD deficient mother and fetus

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

Consider alternative if infant has G6PD deficiency or is younger than 1 month as there is a risk of haemolysis

Comments

An alternative regimen is 100 mg 12-hourly for 5 days. This is from a study using Macrobid®, a slow-release formulation unavailable in Australia.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Policies:

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Formulary 1

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

Infections: Urinary tract infection in pregnant women

References

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NSQHS Standards Applicable:	☒ Std 1: Clinical Governance ☐ Std 2: Partnering with Consumers ☒ Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection ☒ Std 4: Medication Safety		☐ Std 5: Comprehensive Care ☐ Std 6: Communicating for Safety ☐ Std 7: Blood Management ☐ Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration		
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