



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Pethidine

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](#)

[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

Schedule 8 Medication

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

1st Trimester: Considered safe to use

2nd Trimester: Considered safe to use

3rd 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

Australian Medicines Handbook. Pethidine. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2017 [cited 2021 May 10]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Pethidine. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2016 [cited 2021 May 10]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Pethidine Hydrochloride. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2017 [cited 2021 May 10]. Available from: <http://aidh.hcn.com.au>

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