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

ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
Rifampicin	
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

IV - Formulary: Highly Restricted

Capsule, oral liquid - Formulary: Restricted

All use requires approval from a Clinical Microbiologist, Infectious Diseases Physician, Public Health Physician or Respiratory Physician.

Medication Class

Rifamycins

Presentation

Mixture: 100 mg/5 mL

Capsule: 300 mg

Vial: 600 mg (10 mL) water for injections provided as diluent)

Storage

Store below 25°C. Protect from light.

Dose

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infection

As per Infectious Diseases physician or clinical microbiologist as part of a multi-medication regimen

Clearance antibiotics for patients or close contacts with *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) meningitis or *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcal) meningitis

As per Infectious Diseases physician or clinical microbiologist

May be used in multi-drug regimens to treat Tuberculosis – see Therapeutic guidelines

Administration

IV

Refer to the Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook

Oral

Take at least half an hour before food

Monitoring

Obtain liver function tests, serum creatinine and complete blood count before treatment then monitor regularly during treatment

Stop if thrombocytopenia occurs

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Considered safe to use

2nd Trimester: Considered safe to use

3rd Trimester: Monitoring required (see below)

Rifampicin used in the last few weeks of pregnancy may be associated with an increased risk of haemorrhagic disorders in the newborn.

Maternal supplementation with vitamin K should be given during the last four to eight weeks of pregnancy and neonatal vitamin K at birth is recommended.

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

Breastmilk may be stained a red-orange colour

Comments

Urine, faeces, sweat and tears may become orange-red and soft contact lenses may be permanently stained

Rifampicin interacts with many drugs, so prescribers need to be aware of all medicines being taken by patients

Be aware if patient has any loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, unusual tiredness, jaundice, dark urine or pale faeces.

Rifampicin may reduce the effectiveness of contraceptive medications

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

Meningococcal infection - meningitis, septicaemia Statutory notification alert

WNHS Policies:

Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) policy

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

Contraception (link to RANZCOG)

Meningococcal Disease

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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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