

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

STUDENT NAME RDH

MEDICATION Lorazepam (Ativan, Lorazepam Intensol, Loreev XR) REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY CLASS Benzodiazepine

**PURPOSE OF MEDICATION**

**Expected Pharmacological Action**

Enhances action of inhibitory neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid in CNS, effecting memory, motor sensory, cognitive function.

**Therapeutic Use**

Produces anxiolytic, anticonvulsant, sedative, muscle relaxant, antiemetic effects.

**Complications**

Side Effects: Drowsiness, dizziness, weakness, ataxia, headache, hypotension, N/V, confusion, injection site reaction  
Adverse Effects: abrupt withdrawal can result in restlessness, irritability, insomnia, hand tremor, ABD cramping, muscle cramps, diaphoresis, vomiting, seizures \*Overdose s/s: drowsiness, confusion, diminished reflexes, coma  
\*Antidote: Flumazenil

**Medication Administration**

\*For Anxiety  
PO: initially 0.5-2 mg q4-6h as needed up to 10 mg/day (ER tablets given as total daily dose at once)  
MAX: 2 mg  
\*For Status Epilepticus  
IV: 4 mg given at maximum rate of 2 mg/min, may repeat in 3-5 minutes  
MAX: 5 mg

**Contraindications/Precautions**

Contraindications: hypersensitivity to medication or drug class, acute narrow-angle glaucoma, severe respiratory depression  
Precautions: neonates, hepatic impairment, compromised pulmonary function, depression, concomitant use of CNS depressants, pts at high risk for suicidal ideation and behavior, hx of drug abuse

**Nursing Interventions**

No necessary baseline assessment.  
Ongoing: Monitor B/P, RR, and HR. Screen for suicidal ideation and onset or worsening of anxiety, depression, or mood disorders.

**Interactions**

Drugs: Valproic acid may increase concentration. Alcohol, other CNS depressants may increase CNS depression.  
Herbal: herbals with sedative properties may increase CNS depression  
\*Therapeutic serum level: 50-240 ng/mL, toxic unknown

**Client Education**

Avoid tasks that require alertness and motor skills until response is established. Smoking reduces effectiveness. Do not abruptly discontinue medication. Contraception recommended for long term therapy. Seek emergency medical help for thoughts of suicide or worsening depression.

**Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness**

Therapeutic response aeb calm facial expressions, decreased restlessness, and insomnia. Decrease in seizure-related symptoms.