

Medications Commonly used in Maternal Newborn

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Methotrexate	Antimetabolite that prevents the production of DNA and urine while depleting DNA precursors (Ricci et al., 2021).	Give oral methotrexate apart from dairy products. Salicylates can cause clearance delays, Keep an eye on your CBC, kidney, liver, and infection symptoms (Ricci et al., 2021).
Mifepristone	Progesterone, which is necessary for the development of pregnancy, is blocked by mifepristone (Ricci et al., 2021).	Complete uterine insufficiency, uterine infection, and significant bleeding (Ricci et al., 2021).
Rhogam	To avoid isoimmunization in Rh-negative women exposed to Rh-positive blood following abortions, miscarriages, and pregnancies, suppresses immunological response in no sensitized Rh-negative clients who are exposed to Rh-positive blood (Ricci et al., 2021).	Apply IM to the deltoid. If fetuses are Rh-positive, inform women that they will require this following subsequent delivery. You should also examine the findings of lab tests before giving the medication (Ricci et al., 2021).
Promethazine	Reduces vestibular stimulation and relieves motion sickness symptoms by acting on the chemoreceptor trigger zone (CTZ) (Ricci et al., 2021).	Be aware of any symptoms of hypotension, disorientation, urine retention, and involuntary movements (Ricci et al., 2021).
Pyridoxine and Doxylamine	Antihistamine and vitamin B6-based delayed-release drug, symptomatic treatment of nausea and vomiting during pregnancy (Ricci et al., 2021).	Take this daily on an empty stomach with a full glass of water and watch for signs of sleepiness, dizziness, headache, and irritability. Do not take this with CNS depressants or sleep aids (Ricci et al., 2021).
Ondansetron	Blocks the release of serotonin, which activates the vagal afferent neurons and triggers the vomiting reflex (Ricci et al., 2021).	Keep an eye on liver function and keep an eye out for symptoms including diarrhea, abdominal discomfort, constipation, headache, dizziness, sleepiness, and exhaustion (Ricci et al., 2021).
Betamethasone	Anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive action (Ricci et al., 2021).	Give with food to lessen GI distress, conceal infection symptoms; do not abruptly cease therapy (Ricci et al., 2021).

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Indomethacin	Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis (Ricci et al., 2021).	Give along with food, and keep an eye out for headache, nausea, vomiting, constipation, or diarrhea. Oliguria or anuria should be reported while giving an IV (Ricci et al., 2021).
Magnesium Sulfate	Blocks off the neuromuscular transmission and treats eclamptic seizures by causing vasodilation (Ricci et al., 2021).	Keeping an eye on serum magnesium levels, Analyze DTRs and examine your ankles for clonus (Ricci et al., 2021).
Terbutaline Sulfate	Relaxes uterine smooth muscle (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).	Monitor patient's respiratory function: vital capacity, FEV, ABGs, lung sounds, heart rate, rhythm (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).
Glyburide	Causes functioning B cells in the pancreas to release insulin, leading to drop in blood glucose levels (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).	Assess for hypo/hyperglycemic reactions that can occur soon after meals (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).
Insulin	Decreases blood glucose by a transport of glucose into cells and the conversion of glucose to glycogen, indirectly increases blood pyruvate and lactate (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).	Assess for symptoms of hypoglycemia this includes sweating, weakness, dizziness, chills, confusion, headache, fatigue, nausea, rapid weak pulse, tachycardia, slurred speech, anxiety, and tremors (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).
Hydralazine hydrochloride	Blood pressure reduction, vascular muscle relaxant, and improved circulation to the kidney, uterus, and cerebral areas (Ricci et al., 2021).	Withdraw medication gradually to avoid the possibility of rebound hypertension, and keep an eye out for palpitations, tachycardia, anorexia, nausea, and vomiting (Ricci et al., 2021).
Labetalol	Alpha-1 beta blocker, Reduction in blood pressure (Ricci et al., 2021).	Drug reduces blood pressure without affecting the heart rate or cardiac output of the mother. When necessary, administer an IV dose of 20 to 40 mg every 15 minutes, and then a 2 mg/min IV infusion until the appropriate blood pressure level is reached (Ricci et al., 2021).
Nifedipine	Coronary arteries, peripheral arterioles, and calcium channel blocker/dilation.	Give three doses of 10 to 20 mg orally, followed by dosages every 4 to 8 hours. Keep an eye out for

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	decrease in blood pressure and cessation of premature labor (Ricci et al., 2021).	any potential side effects include coughing, diarrhea, nasal congestion, angina, and peripheral edema (Ricci et al., 2021).
Calcium gluconate	In cases of hypo/hypercalcemia, calcium gluconate is a calcium salt that is administered intravenously to directly replenish serum calcium levels (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).	While receiving a direct IV injection, check for cutaneous burning sensations, peripheral vasodilation, and a little drop in blood pressure. lab tests During sustained therapy, check the levels of magnesium, calcium, and phosphorus (which tend to change inversely), often. Other ion deficiencies, especially magnesium deficiencies, frequently coexist with calcium ion depletion (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).
Misoprostol	A prostaglandin analog that stimulates the uterus to contract and reduces bleeding (Ricci et al., 2021).	Never provide an IV bolus that has not been diluted, similar to what was said earlier Although not FDA-approved for this use, an effective medication can treat acute postpartum bleeding. Keep an eye out for allergies, active cardiovascular disease, lung disease, or hepatitis (Ricci et al., 2021).
Cervidil	Stimulates uterine contractions, which results in the ejection of uterine contents; does so in cases of fetal death or missed abortion in the second trimester; and, in cases of term pregnancy, effaces and dilates the cervix (Ricci et al., 2021).	Bring gel to room temperature before applying; keep skin contact to a minimum; use sterile approach. After administering this medicine, keep the patient supine for 30 minutes while you discuss the medication's effects and intended use (Ricci et al., 2021).
Penicillin G	Inhibits the production of bacterial walls in sensitive organisms (Ricci et al., 2021).	Penicillin hypersensitivity: give intramuscularly (IM) if symptoms include chills, fever, wheezing, pruritus, or anaphylaxis (Ricci et al., 2021).
Methylergonovine	Prevents and treats postpartum hemorrhage caused by atony or subinvolution by	Every 15 minutes or as directed by protocol, check the vital signs and the baseline levels of bleeding and uterine tone. Report

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	stimulating the uterus (Ricci et al., 2021).	any chest discomfort complaints, explain to the client and family why the medication is being used, and describe the situation (Ricci et al., 2021).
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	At k-receptor sites, it is a partial agonist; at u-receptor sites, it is an antagonist. moderate to severe pain, analgesia prior to surgery (Ricci et al., 2021).	Check for tachycardia and high blood pressure; keep an eye out for diaphoresis and vertigo (Ricci et al., 2021).
Naloxone	Similar to oxymorphone free of agonistic (morphine-like) characteristics, a "pure" narcotic antagonist as a result, it has stronger narcotic antagonist action and has no discernible analgesia, respiratory depression, psychotomimetic effects, or miosis when taken in the absence of narcotics (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).	Keep a watchful eye on the patient because some drugs' duration of effect may be longer than naloxone's. Repetition of the naloxone dose may be required; contact your doctor. Check all surgical and obstetric patients for bleeding often. Naloxone has been linked to unfavorable coagulation test outcomes. Watch out for analgesia reversal, which may show itself through tachycardia, sweating, nausea, or vomiting (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).
Fentanyl	Opioid agonist acting primarily at u-receptor sites (Ricci et al., 2021).	Analyze bowel sounds, check for sedation, check respiratory status, keep an eye out for chest wall rigidity, which can happen with a quick IV infusion (Ricci et al., 2021).
Ibuprofen	Prostaglandin synthesis inhibition. Fever and mild to severe pain are used to treat inflammatory disorders (Ricci et al., 2021).	Give with food, keeping an eye out for GI upset, diarrhea, constipation, sleepiness, dizziness, and nausea (Ricci et al., 2021).
acetaminophen	Blocks pain signals when prostaglandin synthesis is inhibited. Mild pain relief when taken alone; moderate or severe pain relief when combined with a narcotic analgesic (Ricci et al., 2021).	Combined with a narcotic drug, such as codeine or oxycodone, to have a stronger analgesic effect. Monitor the effects of the drug and the level of pain (Ricci et al., 2021).

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oxycodone	Opioid agonist acting primarily at u-receptor sites (Ricci et al., 2021).	Evaluate bowel sounds, respiratory status, and sedation (Ricci et al., 2021).
hydrocodone	An opioid receptor agonist, hydrocodone causes analgesic effects by triggering mu-opioid receptors. As the plasma drug concentration rises above the usual starting dose, hydrocodone additionally activates kappa-opioid receptors and delta-opioid receptors (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).	Assess for pain, monitor for CNS changes, and bowel status. Instruct patient to report any odd changes (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).
ketorolac	Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis (Ricci et al., 2021).	A gift of food Keep an eye out for any symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or headaches. Oliguria or anuria should be reported while giving an IV (Ricci et al., 2021).
Hepatitis B vaccine	Prevents liver-harming infections from occurring (Ricci et al., 2021).	This virus can be transmitted from person to child. A sexually transmitted illness is hepatitis B (Ricci et al., 2021).
Erythromycin eye ointment	Treats bacterial infections in the eye (Ricci et al., 2021).	Before giving any medication, patients should first check for drug allergies and finish the entire course (Ricci et al., 2021).
Phytonadione	Helps the babies blood clot (Ricci et al., 2021).	Keep an eye out for bleeding and jaundice in the infant (Ricci et al., 2021).
Prenatal vitamins	Prenatal vitamins enhance the growth of the placenta and fetus as well as preventing neural tube abnormalities (Ricci et al., 2021).	The patient will want to consume more fiber and drink lots of fluids (Ricci et al., 2021).
MMR vaccine	A live vaccine that aids in the prevention of rubella, measles, and mumps (Ricci et al., 2021).	Egg allergy is no longer a contraindication because the vaccine is not made from the allergic albumen part of the egg (Ricci et al., 2021).
Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine	Aids in preventing pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria (Ricci et al., 2021).	Inform your doctor if your kid has seizures or another neurological condition, has experienced a coma or extended string of seizures within seven days of

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		receiving DTaP, or has experienced an allergic reaction to DTaP in the past (Ricci et al., 2021).
Lidocaine mucosal gel	Lidocaine exerts local anesthetic action by stabilizing the neuronal membrane by blocking the ionic fluxes necessary for the initiation and conduction of impulses (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).	Use caution in patients with severe hepatic or renal disease because accumulation of lidocaine may occur and lead to toxicity (Jones & Bartlett, 2020).

References:

Jones & Bartlett Learning. (2020). *2021 Nurse's Drug Handbook* (19th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Ricci, S. S., Kyle, T., & Carman, S. (2021). *Maternity and pediatric nursing* (4th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.