

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Methotrexate	To treat an ectopic pregnancy. It works by inhibiting the growth of the fertilized egg before a rupture.	Explain adverse side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and GI upset. Any physical change should be notified to a healthcare professional.
Mifepristone	Blocks progesterone, a hormone that is essential to the development of a pregnancy; prevents pregnancy from progressing.	Monitor for headache, vomiting, diarrhea, and heavy bleeding. Anticipate administering antiemetics for N/V. Encourage patient to use acetaminophen to reduce discomfort.
Rhogam	Suppresses immune response of Rh- patients who are exposed to Rh+ blood to prevent isoimmunization after abortions, miscarriages, and pregnancies.	Administer IM in deltoid area. Give for abortions/miscarriages <12 weeks unless the fetus or father is Rh-. Educate patient the need for this medication after deliveries if fetuses are Rh+.
Promethazine	Act on the CNS transmitters to prevent nausea and vomiting (N/V).	May cause CNS side effects, such as drowsiness or irritability. May cause dry mouth.
Pyridoxine and Doxylamine	Delayed-release medication containing antihistamine and Vit B6. Symptomatic relief of N/V during pregnancy.	Monitor for drowsiness, dizziness, headache, and irritability. Do not administer with and CNS depressant or sleeping medication. Must be taken daily, not prn. Should be taken on an empty stomach with a full glass of water.
Ondansetron	Blocks serotonin release, which stimulates vagal afferent nerves; stimulating the vomiting reflex.	Monitor for diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pain, headache, dizziness, drowsiness, and fatigue. Monitor liver function studies.
Betamethasone	Promotes fetal lung maturity by stimulating surfactant production. Prevents or reduces risk of respiratory distress syndrome and intraventricular hemorrhage in preterm neonate less than 34 weeks' gestations.	Administer two doses IM 24 hours apart. Monitor for maternal infection or pulmonary edema. Educate parents about potential benefits of drug to preterm infant. Assess maternal lung sounds and monitor for signs of infection.
Indomethacin	Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis to close patent ductus arteriosus.	Monitor HR< BP, ECG, and urine output; monitor for murmur. Monitor Na, glucose, platelet, BUN, creatinine, K+, and liver enzymes. May mask signs of infection. Note development of edema.
Magnesium Sulfate	Relaxes uterine muscles to stop irritability and contractions.	Administer IV. Assess vital signs and deep tendon reflexes hourly.

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	Used as seizure prophylaxis and treatment of seizures in preeclamptic clients.	Report any hypotension or depressed or absent DTRs. Monitor LOC; report headache, blurred vision, dizziness.
Terbutaline Sulfate	Used to prevent and treat bronchospasm.	Monitor blood sugar and HR.
Glyburide	Assist the body's production of insulin by stimulating beta cells to secrete more insulin indicated for DM2.	Monitor vital signs and glucose levels. Administer with food to minimize GI upset. Educate the patient and family on adverse effects.
Insulin	Used for DM to replace the body's natural insulin, which is necessary for proper glucose use.	Monitor vital signs and glucose levels. Educate the patient and family on adverse effects. Rotate injection site to prevent adipose hypertrophy.
Hydralazine hydrochloride	Vascular smooth muscle relaxant, thus improving perfusion to renal, uterine, and cerebral area. Reduction in blood pressure.	Use parental form immediately after opening ampule. Withdraw drug slowly to prevent possible rebound hypertension. Monitor for adverse effects such as N/V, tachycardia, and headache.
Labetalol	Alpha-1 and beta blocker. Reduction in blood pressure.	Lowers BP without decreasing maternal HR or cardiac output. Monitor for possible adverse effects such as constipation, flatulence, vertigo, and fatigue.
Nifedipine	Calcium channel blocker/dilation of coronary arteries, arterioles, and peripheral arteries. Reduction in BP, stoppage of preterm labor.	Monitor for possible adverse effects such as dizziness peripheral edema, angina, diarrhea, nasal congestions, and cough.
Calcium gluconate	To treat hypocalcemia.	Monitor HR and BP.
Misoprostol	Stimulates the uterus to contract/to reduce bleeding; a prostaglandin analog.	Contraindications: never give undiluted as a bolus injection IV. Contraindications: Allergy, active cardiovascular disease, pulmonary or hepatic disease; use with caution in women with asthma.
Cervidil	Directly softens and dilates the cervix to ripen cervix and induce labor FDA-approved for cervical ripening.	Provide emotional support. Administer pain medications as needed. Frequently assess degree of effacement and dilation.

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Penicillin G	Inhibits bacterial wall synthesis in susceptible organisms.	Hypersensitivity to penicillin. Administer IM.
Methylergonovine	Stimulates the uterus to prevent and treat postpartum hemorrhage due to atony or subinvolution.	Assess baseline bleeding, uterine tone, and vital signs every 15 minutes. Monitor possible adverse effects, such as HTN, seizures, uterine cramping, N/V, and palpitations.
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	Causes less maternal nausea and vomiting.	Can cause decreased FHR variability, fetal bradycardia, and respiratory depression.
Naloxone--	Antagonizes action of narcotic agents. Reversal of respiratory depression related to narcotic effects.	May repeat dose as necessary; narcotic effects outlast therapeutic effects of naloxone.
Fentanyl	Reduce pain associated with short procedures such as bone marrow aspiration, fracture reductions, and suturing.	Assess for respiratory status frequently, noting any decrease in ventilatory rate or changes in breathing patterns.
Ibuprofen	Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis, anti-inflammatory action.	Administer with food to decrease GI upset. May cause gastric bleeding, increased liver enzymes, and decreased renal function. Do not chew or crush extended-release or time-released preparations.
Acetaminophen	Possible inhibition of cyclooxygenase in the CNS. Treat mild to moderate pain, fever, arthritis, musculoskeletal pain, and headache.	Do not exceed five doses in 24 hours. Caution parents to read labels of other OTC drugs carefully, as some may contain acetaminophen, leading to overdose and toxicity.
oxycodone	Pain relief medication.	Watch for CNS depressant. May cause constipation.
hydrocodone	Pain relief medication.	Watch for CNS depressant. May cause constipation.
ketorolac	Pain relief medication.	Administer oral form with food or after meals if GI upset occurs. Monitor for dizziness N/V, constipation, or diarrhea. Assess for signs of bleeding, such as bruising, epistaxis gingival bleeding, or occult blood in urine or stool.
Hepatitis B vaccine	Build immunity against Hepatitis B.	Encourage all women to be screened for hepatitis when they

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		<p>have their annual Pap smear. Vaccine is given to all infants after birth in most hospitals.</p>
Erythromycin eye ointment	<p>Provides ophthalmia neonatorum. Provides bactericidal and bacteriostatic actions to prevent <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> conjunctivitis.</p>	<p>Be alert for chemical conjunctivitis for 1 to 2 days. Wear gloves, and open eyes by placing the thumb and finger above and below the eye. Do not touch the tip of the eye. Close the eye to make sure the medication permeates.</p>
Phytonadione	<p>Provides the newborn with vitamin K during the first week of birth until newborn can manufacture it. Prevents Vit K deficiency bleeding (VKDB) of the newborn.</p>	<p>Administer within 1 to 2 hours after birth. Give as IM injection. Use a 25-gauge, 5/8 in needle for injection. Assess for bleeding at injection site after administration.</p>
Prenatal vitamins	<p>Supplement.</p>	<p>Take with food if GI upset occurs. Avoid taking with antacids, dairy products, tea, or coffee before and after taking.</p>
MMR vaccine	<p>Promotes immunity.</p>	<p>Educate the family about the benefits and risks of immunizations.</p>
Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine	<p>Promotes immunity.</p>	<p>Educate the family about the benefits and risks of immunizations. No allergies to medication and currently not ill.</p>
Lidocaine mucosal gel	<p>Used to prevent and relieve pain during certain medical procedures.</p>	<p>Can cause adverse cardiac effects in high doses. May be associated with CNS depression and seizures.</p>

Medication

Mechanism of Action/Use

Nursing considerations

References

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