

Medications Commonly used in Maternal Newborn

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Methotrexate	Inhibits dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), the enzyme that reduces folic acid to tetrahydrofolic acid	Monitor the toxicity. Monitor blood counts and liver function testing.
Mifepristone	Blocks cortisol at the glucocorticoid receptor	Inform that vaginal bleeding and uterine cramping may occur.
Rhogam	Suppress the immune response of Rh-negative individuals to Ph-positive red blood cells	Perform Coombs blood test.
Promethazine	relieve the symptoms of allergic reactions	Give IM injections deep into the muscle. Do not administer subcutaneously; tissue necrosis may occur.
Pyridoxine and Doxylamine	Treats nausea and vomiting	Inform not to be breastfeeding
Ondansetron	Blocks the action of serotonin	Monitor fluid and electrolyte status, EKG
Betamethasone	Causes the releases of surfactant	Monitor and report signs of peptic ulcer, including heartburn, nausea, vomiting blood, tarry stools, and loss of appetite. Assess any muscle or joint pain.
Indomethacin	inhibits the synthesis of prostaglandins produced primarily by cyclooxygenase enzymes	It can cause a reduction in urine that the fetus produces It can change the way the blood circulates through the fetus's body
Magnesium Sulfate	educes striated muscle contractions and blocks peripheral neuromuscular transmission	may cause decreased respiratory rate, arrhythmia, hypotension, and muscle weakness. monitor EKG and respiratory status.
Terbutaline Sulfate	Produces relaxation of smooth muscle found principally in bronchial, vascular, and uterine tissues	Assess heart rate, ECG, and heart sounds
Glyburide	stimulates insulin secretion through the closure of ATP-sensitive potassium channels on beta cells	Monitor urine or serum glucose levels frequently to determine drug effectiveness and dosage.
Insulin	promotes glucose and amino acid uptake into muscle and adipose tissues	Rotate injection sites to avoid damage to muscles and to prevent subcutaneous atrophy. Monitor response carefully to avoid adverse effects.

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Hydralazine hydrochloride	interferes with calcium transport to relax arteriolar smooth muscle and lower blood pressure	Monitor the patient for adverse and allergic reactions to the medication. Assess, treat, and reassess pain.
Labetalol	relaxes blood vessels and slowing heart rate to improve blood flow and decrease blood pressure	Monitor supine blood pressure.
Nifedipine	inhibits L-type voltage gated calcium channels that reduces blood pressure and increases oxygen supply to the heart	Regularly check blood pressure. Monitor for adverse side effects such as peripheral edema, dizziness, flushing.
Calcium gluconate	Increases the level of calcium in the blood or by binding to excess potassium or magnesium in the blood	Monitor serum levels every 4 hours. Inform that calcium supplements should not be taken.
Misoprostol	binds to smooth muscle cells in the uterine lining to increase the strength and frequency of contractions	Fetal heart rate (FHR) and uterine activity (UA) will be monitored continuously for 1 hour
Cervidil	Relaxes the muscles of the cervix	monitor uterine activity, fetal status and the progression of cervical dilatation and effacement
Penicillin G	inhibits bacterial peptidoglycan transpeptidase	Watch for seizures. Monitor signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, including pulmonary symptoms or skin reactions.
Methylergonovine	acts directly on the smooth muscle of the uterus and increases the tone, rate, and amplitude of rhythmic contractions	Mothers should not breast-feed Assess the blood pressure
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	provides analgesia with less nausea, pruritus, and respiratory depression	may have withdrawal symptoms if you abruptly stop
Naloxone--	acts as a pure mu-opiate receptor competitive antagonist	monitored for another 2 hours after the last dose to make sure breathing does not slow or stop
Fentanyl	acts primarily at the μ -opioid receptor	Assess any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness. Cholesterol and triglyceride levels should be monitored every four to eight weeks.
Ibuprofen	inhibits the activity of both COX-1 and COX-2	Administer with food or after meals if GI upset occurs.

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acetaminophen	inhibit the synthesis of prostaglandins in the central nervous system	assess pain levels and fever reduction
oxycodone	inhibit pain transmission by mimicking the body's natural pain control mechanisms	Monitor for respiratory depression. Assess each patient's risk for addiction, abuse, or misuse
hydrocodone	produces analgesic effects by activating mu-opioid receptors	monitor the patients for pain relief, constipation, respiratory depression, and other adverse effects.
ketorolac	inhibits cyclooxygenase/prostaglandin synthesis	Monitor signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. Monitor signs of GI bleeding.
Hepatitis B vaccine	Causes the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against the disease	Pregnant or breastfeeding people should be vaccinated, give vaccine within 12 hours of birth to infants of infected mothers.
Erythromycin eye ointment	stops the growth of bacteria	Monitor vital signs especially heart rate for arrhythmias. Observe for signs of adverse effects. Do not rinse.
Phytonadione	treats and prevents low levels of blood clotting factors needed to help your blood to thicken and stop bleeding normally	Monitor prothrombin time (PT) and INR levels
Prenatal vitamins	supports healthy brain and spinal cord development, and it reduces the risk of neural tube defects.	Inform that high doses of vitamin A, vitamin C, or vitamin E.
MMR vaccine	prevents measles, mumps, and rubella in individuals	women should not get pregnant for 4 weeks (28 days) after
Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine	produces an active immune response of the body by developing antibodies and antitoxins against the toxoids and acellular pertussis antigens	Monitor vital signs. Inform whether breastfeeding.
Lidocaine mucosal gel	stabilizes the neuronal membrane by inhibiting the ionic fluxes required for the initiation and conduction of impulses	Monitor ECG constantly Notify if pregnancy is planned or suspected, or if breastfeeding.

