

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use in OB	Nursing Considerations
Methotrexate	Used for an ectopic pregnancy. It inhibits cell division in the embryo by acting as a folic acid antagonist.	Monitor for adverse effects like abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomatitis.
Mifepristone	Used for medical abortions. Also used for fetal demise to induce labor. The medication works by inhibiting the development and maintenance of pregnancy by blocking progesterone through its receptors.	Monitor for side effects including heavy bleeding, headache, and vomiting.
Rhogam	Used for RH- negative mom with an RH+ baby. Can give prophylactically. Mom can receive this medication at 28 week's gestation and also after 72 hours postpartum.	Monitor for pre term labor and frequent vital signs on baby and mom. Educate mother on the importance and needing this for future pregnancies with Rh-positive fetuses.
Betamethasone	Given to moms to mature the baby's lungs. This stimulates the production of surfactant which can reduce the risk of respiratory distress,	Injection should be given 24 hours apart in 2 doses. Monitor mother for pulmonary edema and infections.
Indomethacin	Uses for preterm labor. It is a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor which can reduce amniotic fluid and decrease fetal urinary output.	Monitor vital signs in mother and baby. Hold medication in cases greater than 32 week's gestation, fetal growth restriction, and allergies to NSAIDS.
Magnesium Sulfate	It reduces seizure risks in women with preeclampsia. It is an anticonvulsant.	Strict intake and outputs. Monitor vital signs and deep tendon reflexes. Monitor for adverse effects including changes in LOC, dizziness, lethargy, and blurred vision.
Terbutaline Sulfate	Used for preterm labor; prevents bronchospasms related to asthma.	Monitor for tachycardia in mother and baby. Monitor for chest pain, hypertension, and respirations. Medication should not be given orally.
Hydralazine hydrochloride	Reduces blood pressure by relaxing smooth muscle and increasing perfusion to different areas of the body. (Ex: renal & cerebral areas).	Monitor for heart palpitations, tachycardia, and headaches. Needs to be used immediately after opening ampule.
Labetalol	Is a beta blocker that reduces blood pressure.	Monitor vital signs. Monitor for adverse effects including fatigue, dizziness, vertigo, and gastric pain.

Nifedipine	This is a calcium channel blocker that reduces blood pressure by dilating coronary and peripheral arteries. Can be used also for preterm labor.	This is contraindicated in patients with cardiac history. Monitor for fetal bradycardia, edema, palpitations, hypertension, and headaches. Use in caution with patients receiving magnesium sulfate.
Calcium gluconate	Antidote for magnesium sulfate toxicity. It can be used in cases of neonatal hypocalcemia.	Place patient on seizure precautions. Monitor for arrhythmias, stridor, and fluid-electrolyte imbalances.
Misoprostol	Used to ripen the cervix. It is also used to terminate a pregnancy.	Monitor for vaginal bleeding, shock, n/v/d, hypotension, and tachycardia.
Cervidil	Used to ripen the cervix by stimulating uterine contractions to expel the contents of the uterus.	Gel should not contact the skin and is administered in a sterile technique. Insertion should be removed within 12 hours or later or when labor begins.
Methylergonovine	Given for too much bleeding and can be given for prophylactically. It stimulates the uterus to prevent and treat postpartum hemorrhage.	Frequent vital signs and determine baseline bleeding. Monitor for palpitations, hypertension, chest pain, and uterine cramping. This is contraindicated in patients with hypertension.
Hepatitis B vaccine	Is given to all neonates and is repeated two more times within 6 months of first administration.	Educate mother on the importance of child receiving the vaccine and the benefits of this vaccine.
Erythromycin eye ointment	Given to babies to prevent eye infections. It is a bactericidal and can prevent ophthalmia neonatorum.	Monitor for conjunctivitis. Apply in the conjunctival sac from the inner to outer canthus.
Phytonadione	Vitamin K- given to babies to help with clotting in the body.	Given 1-2 hours after birth IM. Assess for bleeding at the injection site.
Prenatal vitamins	Vitamins for mothers and babies. Can be important to take for mothers who have low iron and increasing production of folic acid.	Educate the patient on the importance and benefits of taking prenatal vitamins.
MMR vaccine	Used for measles, mumps, and rubella and administered in two doses.	Educate the mother on the importance and benefits for giving this vaccine to the neonate.

References:

Jones & Bartlett Learning. (2022). *2022 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.