

Medications Commonly used in Maternal Newborn

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Methotrexate	Methotrexate is used to treat ectopic pregnancies.	Teach patient to not breastfeed for 1 week after taking the last dose of methotrexate.
Mifepristone	This drug blocks a hormone needed for pregnancy to continue progressing.	Teach patient to notify the provider of any heavy bleeding or abdominal pain
Rhogam	This medication is used to prevent RHD isoimmunization in mothers who are RHD negative. This drug treats ITP in RH positive patients	Monitor patient for hemolytic reactions or patients who have antibodies against IgA
Promethazine	This medication is used throughout pregnancy to treat N/V, motion sickness, and some allergies.	Teach patient that they may become drowsy
Pyridoxine and Doxylamine	These two drugs are combined to treat N/V in pregnant women whose symptoms have not changes after changing some things within their lifestyle such as diet or other medications.	Ensure patients current medications does not interact with the two meds. Ensure patient knows that she cannot breastfeed while on this medication.
Ondansetron	This medication is used to prevent N/V.	Ensure patient knows not to chew this med. Make sure the patient knows to notify the doctor or pharmacist of any new meds that are being taken to ensure it doesn't interact with ondansetron.
Betamethasone	Betamethasone (a steroid medicine) given to mothers in premature labor can make some prematurity complications less severe (MedlinePlus, 2019).	Ensure the caregiver is sure to notify provider if respiratory issues worsen.
Indomethacin	This drug relieves moderate to severe pain. This drug stops the body from production of a substance that causes pain/inflammation (MedlinePlus, 2019).	Ensure patient is not taking any NSAIDS other than aspirin as this drug can create a higher risk for heart attack and stroke.
Magnesium Sulfate	Magnesium sulfate is a commonly used anticonvulsant. This drug depresses the CNS and decreases the amount of acetylcholine. This drug inhibits premature labor and helps with eclampsia. This medication also promotes the movement of	Monitor patient for myocardial damage/heart blocks. Monitor patient's electrolyte status, respiratory status, and DTR.

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	important electrolytes such as calcium and potassium.	
Terbutaline Sulfate	Terbutaline Sulfate is a selective Beta 2 receptor. That produces relaxation of smooth muscle and uterine tissues.	Monitor in patients with heart disease. Side note: Terbutaline should not be used to stop or prevent premature labor in pregnant women, especially in women who are not in a hospital. Terbutaline has caused serious side effects, including death, in pregnant women who took the medication for this purpose (MedlinePlus, 2019). Terbutaline has also caused serious side effects in newborns whose mothers took the medication to stop or prevent labor (MedlinePlus, 2019)
Glyburide	This medication is used to lower blood sugars.	Monitor patients' blood glucose levels.
Insulin	Insulin acts by directly binding to its receptors on the plasma membranes of the cells. These receptors are present on all the cells, but their density depends on the type of cells, with the maximum density being on the hepatic cells and adipocytes (Thota & Akbar, 2022).	Monitor patients blood glucose levels and daily weight.
Hydralazine hydrochloride	Hydralazine is a direct vasodilator used orally to treat essential hypertension, among other diseases, and intravenously to rapidly reduce blood pressure in hypertensive urgency or emergency (Herman & Tivakaran, 2019).	Monitor for hypotension and notify provider if bradycardia occurs.
Labetalol	This drug is an adrenergic blocking agent and is used to treat high blood pressure throughout pregnancy.	Monitor patients' blood values and perform renal and liver function tests.
Nifedipine	Nifedipine is a calcium channel blocker. This drug dilates the blood vessels and help reduce blood pressure.	Monitor this drug in patients with active hepatic disease and monitor for dry mouth and headache. Monitor blood pressure before and after treatment.
Calcium gluconate	Calcium gluconate is used in OB	Monitor calcium levels and iv site

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	to treat patients who present with symptoms of magnesium sulfate. This drug helps with loss of reflexes.	for extravasation.
Misoprostol	This drug is a prostaglandin and is used to enhance uterine contractions and decrease postpartum hemorrhage. This drug also activates calcium channel blockers.	Monitor patient for fevers and N/V. assess respiratory rate/rhythm/depth.
Cervidil	Cervidil (dinoprostone) Vaginal Insert is a prostaglandin, a hormone-like substance that is naturally produced by the body, used in a pregnant woman to relax the muscles of the cervix (opening of the uterus) in preparation for inducing labor at the end of a pregnancy (Cunha, 2020).	Notify patient that side effects can include Fever, N/V, Warmth in vagina, or back pain.
Penicillin G	Penicillin G Potassium for Injection is an antibiotic used to treat severe infections including strep and staph infections, diphtheria, meningitis, and syphilis. Penicillin G potassium is available in generic form (Cunha, 2022).	If patient experiences hives, tachycardia or swelling the patient should seek medical help expeditiously.
Methylergonovine	Methylergonovine is a prescription medication used to treat Postpartum Hemorrhage (Khan, 2022).	Educate the patient to notify the provider if severe headache or SOB occurs.
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	Nubian (nalbuphine hydrochloride) is a narcotic pain reliever used to treat moderate to severe pain. Nubian is also used for treating pain just after surgery or childbirth (Cunha, 2024).	The recommended dosage is 10mg per 70kg.
Naloxone--	Naloxone sublingual tablets are indicated for the maintenance treatment of opioid dependence and should be used as part of a complete treatment plan to include counseling and psychosocial support (Cunha, 2022).	Educate patient on pregnancy risks and monitor patient RR.

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Fentanyl	Fentanyl is a prescription medication used to treat the symptoms of Surgery Premedication and for General Anesthesia (Khan, 2023).	If confusion, hallucinations, or shivering occur within the patient notify the provider.
Ibuprofen	Motrin (ibuprofen) is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) indicated for relief of the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, for relief of mild to moderate pain, and for treatment of primary dysmenorrhea (Cunha, 2023).	Monitor patient for eye problems or serious heart problems such as bounding heartbeat.
acetaminophen	Acetaminophen is an analgesic used to temporarily relieve minor aches and pains due to headache, muscular aches, backache, minor pain of arthritis, the common cold, toothache, and premenstrual and menstrual cramps (Cunha, 2022).	Monitor patients hepatic functioning.
oxycodone	Oxycodone is an opioid pain medication used for Moderate-to-Severe Pain and Chronic Severe Pain, requiring daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment when other treatment options are inadequate (Cunha, 2022).	Monitor patient for risks of opioid addiction. Notify provider if patient becomes agitated.
hydrocodone	Hydrocodone is a prescription narcotic indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate (Cunha, 2022).	If patient becomes difficult to arouse notify the provider. Educate patient that they should expect some constipation.
ketorolac	Ketorolac is used for the short-term treatment of moderate to severe pain. It is usually used before or after medical procedures or after surgery. Reducing pain helps you recover more comfortably so that you can return to your normal daily	Always begin with parenteral therapy; oral administration indicated only as a continuation of intravenous/intramuscular (IV/IM) dosing, if necessary (Cunha, 2022).

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	activities (Cunha, 2022). This medication is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It works by blocking your body's production of certain natural substances that cause inflammation (Cunha, 2022). This effect helps to decrease swelling, pain, or fever (Cunha, 2022).	
Hepatitis B vaccine	This vaccine helps prevent hepatitis.	If the patient is ill the vaccine should be given on a later date when the patient is well.
Erythromycin eye ointment	Erythromycin is a bacteriostatic antibiotic, which means it prevents the further growth of bacteria rather than directly destroying them. This action occurs by inhibiting protein synthesis. Erythromycin binds to the 23S ribosomal RNA molecule in the 50S subunit of the bacterial ribosome; this causes a blockage in peptide chain synthesis, ultimately inhibiting the protein synthesis (Farzam & Quick, 2019).	For urogenital infections during pregnancy, the recommended dose is 500 mg of erythromycin by mouth four times a day on an empty stomach for at least seven days (Farzam & Quick, 2019).
Phytonadione	This medication, AKA vitamin K helps the infant blood clot and prevents bleeding.	Monitor patients H&H along with vitals.
Prenatal vitamins	Prenatal vitamins are used to prevent vitamin deficiency in pregnant women and ensure that you are getting the adequate amount of nutrients.	Inform patient to take this on an empty stomach. If patients stomach becomes upset give with food for future administration.
MMR vaccine	MMR helps prevent the patient from getting infectious disease/measles, mumps, rubella.	This is a live virus and should not be given to pregnant women.
Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine	This combined vaccine protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis.	Notify the patient that they may experience pain at the injection site for a day or two. If severe swelling or pain occurs notify the provider.
Lidocaine mucosal gel	This medicated solution is used to treat/prevent pain occurring in the urethra. This medication is also used for intubation.	Notify provider if allergic reaction occurs. Notify provider if patient is hypersensitive to this gel.

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MedlinePlus. (2019, November). <i>Ondansetron: MedlinePlus Drug Information</i> . Medlineplus.gov. https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a601209.html		
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