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Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Methotrexate	Use: treatment of severe psoriasis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of Action: effecting T and potentially B lymphocytes by effecting the replication and process. Methotrexate decreases the speed of growing cells that are prominate in psoriasis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Obtain and continue to monitor CBC, Chest X-ray (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor renal function/labs, and urinalysis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Increase patients' intake to 2-3 L a day and monitor Intake and output (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Continue to monitor patient for infection or bleeding (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Mifepristone	Use: used in the assistance in terminating a pregnancy (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Mifepristone stops progesterone from contributing during the pregnancy resulting in the insufficiency to retain life for the fetus (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patient for weakness, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for infection/sepsis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for continuation of pregnancy (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for bleeding and cramping (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Rhogam	Use: Used in pregnancy to prevent the body from creating anti-D antibodies that can harm the patient and the unborn baby (DrugBank, 2024). Mechanism of action: Rho immune globulin stops the antibody reaction during a conflicting pregnancy by increasing the speed of phagocytosis of red blood cells and removing it before being detected by the immune system (DrugBank, 2024).	-Ensure the mother of the baby is Rh negative (DrugBank, 2024). -Be sure of the mother and baby blood type before administration (DrugBank, 2024). -Monitor for side effects or negative reactions (DrugBank, 2024). -Monitor the patients labs, blood cultures (DrugBank, 2024).
Promethazine	Use: to treat motion sickness (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action engages	-Monitor patient (children and elderly) due to the heavy side effects of the medication

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	with Histamine H receptor area, during this irritating the histamine effects and decreasing allergic side effects. While improving motion sickness by having a direct effect on the medullary chemoreceptive region, and reducing vestibular stimulation (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	(Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Assess respiratory function -Assess patients' hematologic status -Assess the patient for symptoms of neuroleptic malignant syndrome (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Pyridoxine and Doxylamine	Use: often used in morning sickness (DrugBank, 2024). Mechanism of action: Pyridoxine works by stopping the process of natural substance in the body to prevent nausea and vomiting often seen in morning sickness (DrugBank, 2024).	Monitor the patient's level of vitamin B6 (DrugBank, 2024). -Monitor the patient's neurological system (DrugBank, 2024).
Ondansetron	Use: used in the prevention and assistance of nausea and vomiting (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Stops serotonins receptors by stopping serotonin release in the small intestine, this will decrease nausea and vomiting (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patient for low levels of potassium or imbalance in electrolytes (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). - Assess patient for serotonin syndrome (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor patients EKG (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor patient for oral complications when using oral medication (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Betamethasone	Use: used in the treatment of skin conditions to relief symptoms (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: stops and controls inflammation by controlling the rate of protein synthesis which decreases the movement of polymorphonuclear leukocytes (Jones&Bartlett,	-Monitor the patient for adverse effects including blistering or burning of the skin (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's skin (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients' blood pressure (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients serum K and glucose levels as ordered (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).

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Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
	2022).	
Indomethacin	Use: To relieve pain often related to osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Stops movement of cyclooxygenase and inhibits prostaglandins decreases pain, swelling, and inflammation (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Avoid in patients with a recent MI (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor patient for GI bleeding (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for cardiac events (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor liver and kidney function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the. Patients vitals (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Magnesium Sulfate	Use: used to treat magnesium deficiency (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: stopping calcium contraction resulting in decreasing the release of acetylcholine from neuromuscular junctions and resulting in the decrease of spasms of the airway caused by histamine (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor for hypermagnesemia (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's cardiac status (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients' electrolytes (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Ensure this is not used long-term (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Terbutaline Sulfate	Use: used to decrease the chances of bronchospasms in relation to asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: activates beta adrenergic receptors resulting in the ease and relaxation of the smooth muscle tissue causing decrease chance and reaction of bronchospasms (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor patient closely if they have a history of cardiovascular disease (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's respiratory function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's cardiac status and function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Glyburide	Use: Used to assist with blood glucose levels in type 2 Diabetics (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Provokes insulin release	-Monitor the patients' blood glucose level, especially fasting glucose levels (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients' blood glucose level more frequently

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Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
	located in the pancreas by beta cells. Glyburide can also expand the number of insulin receptors (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	when transitioning from insulin (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor for hypoglycemia (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Insulin	Use: To assist in the regulation of glycemic management in patients with DM (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: assists in lowering blood glucose by restoring glucose absorbed by fat and skeletal muscle and impeding the production of hepatic glucose (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor patient for hypoglycemia (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor patients potassium levels (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients' blood sugar levels (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Inhaled insulin is not recommended for long-acting insulin (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Hydralazine hydrochloride	Use: used in the treatment of hypertension (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: applies vasodilation directly on vascular smooth muscle. (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patients CBC (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients vitals and weight, especially blood pressure (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Perform blood pressure readings to detect orthostatic hypotension (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Labetalol	Use: to assist in the management of hypertension (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: stops alpha and beta receptors located inside the vascular smooth muscle (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor patient for shock, as Labetalol may resemble similar signs (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients' blood glucose if they are diabetic (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Do not stop medication abruptly (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Nifedipine	Use: Used to assist in long term angina (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: possibility of decrease in the transferring of calcium into cells located in the myocardial and vascular smooth muscles. (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor closely if the patient has a history of Cirrhosis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients vitals during treatment, especially if the patient is being treated currently with beta blockers (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor closely in patients with a history of heart failure

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Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
		(Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's daily intake and output (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Calcium gluconate	Use: Used in the treatment of hyperphosphatemia (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: assists in the addition of intracellular and extracellular calcium, while also assisting in the management of neurotransmitters and hormones (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patients calcium levels during treatment (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients kidney function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -If the patient is receiving dialysis, monitor for hypercalcemia (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Misoprostol	Use: used in the treatment of miscarriage, cervical ripening, or induction of labor (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: connects to myometrial cells resulting in contractions causing the body to expel the tissue (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patients vitals (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for uterine activity (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for infection (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the fetal heart rate (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Cervidil	Use: used to assist in softening the cervix prior to labor (Drugs.com, 2023). Mechanism of action: Cervidil stimulates receptors to begin softening and ripening the cervix to prepare for labor including causing collagenase enzymes to be activated (Drugs.com, 2023).	-Monitor uterine activity (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the fetal status (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the patient's cervical dilation (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the patients vitals (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor for any unexpected vaginal bleeding (Drugs.com, 2023).
Penicillin G	Use: used to treat gram positive influenced infections (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: terminates infection caused by bacteria by binding to protein and causing destruction to the cell wall resulting in decrease infection and bacteria	-Monitor the patient during treatment for any symptoms of a forming secondary infection (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Assess the patients' blood cultures and monitor the serum sodium level (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients vitals,

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	(Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	including intake and output (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Use cautiously in patients with a history of asthma (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Methylergonovine	Use: used in the treatment of bleeding caused by labor/childbirth (Drugs.com, 2022). Mechanism of action: directly affects the smooth muscle of the uterus and multiplies the rhythmic contractions decreasing blood loss (Drugs.com, 2022).	-Instruct the patient to avoid breastfeeding during treatment (Drugs.com, 2022). -Monitor the patient for N/V, chest pain, or discomfort (Drugs.com, 2022). -Monitor the patient's uterine response and blood loss (Drugs.com, 2022). -Monitor the patients vitals (Drugs.com, 2022). -Monitor the patients' blood culture such as calcium levels (Drugs.com, 2022).
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	Use: used in the treatment of moderate to severe pain (Drugs.com, 2023). Mechanism of action: Nalbuphine engages with opiate receptor in the central nervous system resulting in decrease in pain (Drugs.com, 2023).	-Use cautiously in breastfeeding mothers because this can be harmful to the baby (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the patient's respiratory function (Drugs.com, 2023). -Use cautiously in patients with a history of asthma (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the patients for sedation (Drugs.com, 2023).
Naloxone	Use: used to treat opioid overdose (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Intervenes with substances in the Central nervous system resulting in the reverse of the effects of the opioid overdose temporarily (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor for opioid withdrawal, symptoms including abdominal cramps, anxiety, diaphoresis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor for continuation of opioid overdose (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for nausea and vomiting (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for any serious adverse effects including but not limited to hypotension and seizures (Jones&Bartlett,

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		2022).
Fentanyl	Use: used for pain management, often seen in pre-operation (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: connects to opioid receptor area located in the CNS, changing the recognition of pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor for risk of addiction or abuse (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's respiratory function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients lab values, blood cultures (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -If given via IV monitor for extravasation (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor patients for sedation (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Ibuprofen	Use: used for pain relief often in rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Stops movement of cyclooxygenase and inhibiting prostaglandins to decrease inflammatory effects and pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Should not be given to pregnant women if they are past 30 weeks (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Avoid in patients with a recent MI (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -If the patient is on long term treatment of ibuprofen monitor for cardiac events (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor blood pressure (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor CBC, BUN & serum creatinine, and liver enzymes as ordered (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Acetaminophen	Use: used to treat pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: provokes the enzyme cyclooxygenase, stopping prostaglandin production and effecting pain impulse regarding the peripheral nervous system. Acetaminophen can also affect temperature in the hypothalamus by obstructing prostaglandin (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patient's renal function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor AST, ALT, and liver function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor patients medication intake of acetaminophen to remain in the recommended dose range of acetaminophen (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).

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Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Oxycodone	Use: treatment for pain relief Mechanism of action: changes the feeling (physically and emotionally) of pain at the spinal cord and levels of the CNS by stopping neurotransmitters from being released (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor and educate the patient on potential for abuse and addiction (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor pregnant women for NOWS (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor respiratory function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Assess patients pain regularly (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients vitals (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
hydrocodone	Use: used in the long-term treatment of severe pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Connects and provokes opioid receptors located in the periaqueductal, spinal cord and also located inside the ventromedial medulla that results in the ease of pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patient for addiction and abuse of medication (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Do not give this medication during pregnancy, labor, or breastfeeding (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's respiratory function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Use cautiously in patients with a history of COPD (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
ketorolac	Use: used in the treatment of pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Stops cyclooxygenase and obstructs prostaglandin synthesis resulting in the decrease of inflammation and pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor the patients liver function (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor patients if they have history of hypertension or heart failure (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Do not administer in patients with a recent MI (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patients pain level and inform the provider of pain management (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Hepatitis B vaccine	Use: Used to prevent hepatitis B (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: Hepatitis B vaccine results in your body creating protection against the disease (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Do not give the vaccine if the patient is currently sick (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for itching or swelling (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Recommended for pregnant women at risk for hepatitis B

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		(Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Erythromycin eye ointment	Use: used in the treatment of infections located in the eye often used on newborn babies (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). Mechanism of action: intervenes in bacterial protein synthesis resulting in the decrease in bacterial growth (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Monitor for any adverse effects such as diarrhea or vomiting (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for any allergic reaction (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient's renal function for long term therapy (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Monitor the patient for redness, burning, or blurred vision (Jones&Bartlett, 2022). -Do not touch the applicator directly to the eye or any other surface (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).
Phytonadione	Use: used in the treatment of bleeding or clotting of the blood often caused by vitamin k deficiency (DrugBank, 2024). Mechanism of action: performs as a cofactor with an enzyme that is located inside the liver referred to as gamma glutamyl-carboxylase this then transforms the forms of coagulation factors that are considered inactive into their active state (DrugBank, 2024).	-Monitor the patients PT and INR (DrugBank, 2024). -Monitor the patients vitals (DrugBank, 2024). -Monitor the patients vitamin K levels to avoid toxicity (DrugBank, 2024). -Vitamin k injections are often suggested for newborn babies (DrugBank, 2024).
Prenatal vitamins	Use: used in pregnancy to assist the baby grow and develop in a healthy manner (Multum, 2023). Mechanism of action: acts directly on the brain and spinal cord development of the baby and provides necessary supplements for health growth (Multum, 2023).	-Suggested to take this medication on an empty stomach and full glass of water (Multum, 2023). -Monitor the patient for upset stomach or adverse effects (Multum, 2023). -Monitor the patients' blood cultures as ordered (Multum, 2023).
MMR vaccine	Use: used in the protection of measles, mumps, and rubella (CDC, 2019).	-Suggested to give in patients 12 months and older (Drugs.com, 2023).

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Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
	Mechanism of action: the vaccine is injected into the patient to provoke your immune system to create protection to fight the virus referred to as antibodies (CDC, 2019).	-Use cautiously in patients with immunodeficiency (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the patient for seizures following administration (Drugs.com, 2023).
Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine	Use: used for prevention of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Multum, 2023). Mechanism of action: The vaccine is injection into the patient to provoke a response by the immune system to create protection against the virus by creating antibodies (Multum, 2023).	-Monitor the patient for any adverse reactions (Multum, 2023). -Use cautiously in patients with a history/ or active seizures and if the patient has a weakened immune system (Multum, 2023). -If the patient is pregnant monitor the patient's vitals and fetal status (Multum, 2023).
Lidocaine mucosal gel	Use: used in the numbing of the oral surfaces such as the mouth, throat or nose often used prior to procedure (Drugs.com, 2023). Mechanism of action: Lidocaine directly impacts ventricular depolarization and the automaticity and excitability during the process of diastole and contributes to stopping nerve impulses reducing pain (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).	-Do not use if the patient has a current infection where the gel may be applied (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the patient for any broken skin or wounds where the gel is applied (Drugs.com, 2023). -Monitor the patient for infection or acidosis (Drugs.com, 2023). -Use carefully in patients with renal disease and monitor closely (Jones&Bartlett, 2022).

Medications Commonly used in Maternal Newborn

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Resources:

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