

# Neonatal Medication Guideline

## Clinical Guideline

### Vecuronium

**Policy developed by:** SA Maternal, Neonatal & Gynaecology Community of Practice

**Approved SA Health Safety & Quality Strategic Governance Committee on:**  
11 August 2017

**Next review due:** 31 August 2020

**Summary** The purpose of this guideline is to guide nursing, midwifery, medical and pharmacy staff in the dosing and administration of vecuronium

**Keywords** vecuronium, neonatal medication guidelines, vecuronium bromide, intubation, muscle relaxant, suxamethonium, pancuronium, tachycardia, neuromuscular blockade

**Policy history** Is this a new policy? **N**  
Does this policy amend or update an existing policy? **Y v2.0**  
Does this policy replace an existing policy? **N**  
If so, which policies? **Vecuronium Neonatal Medication Guideline**

**Applies to** All Health Networks  
CALHN, SALHN, NALHN, CHSALHN, WCHN, SAAS

**Staff impact** All Clinical, Medical, Midwifery, Nursing, Students, Allied Health, Emergency, Mental Health, Pathology, Pharmacy

**PDS reference** CG109

---

### Version control and change history

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	November 2012	September 2013	Original version
2.0	September 2013	Aug 2017	Revision
3.0	11 Aug 2017	Current	Review

© Department for Health and Ageing, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved.

# vecuronium

## 10mg injection

© Department of Health, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved

### Note

This guideline provides advice of a general nature. This statewide guideline has been prepared to promote and facilitate standardisation and consistency of practice, using a multidisciplinary approach. The guideline is based on a review of published evidence and expert opinion.

Information in this statewide guideline is current at the time of publication.

SA Health does not accept responsibility for the quality or accuracy of material on websites linked from this site and does not sponsor, approve or endorse materials on such links.

Health practitioners in the South Australian public health sector are expected to review specific details of each patient and professionally assess the applicability of the relevant guideline to that clinical situation.

If for good clinical reasons, a decision is made to depart from the guideline, the responsible clinician must document in the patient's medical record, the decision made, by whom, and detailed reasons for the departure from the guideline.

This statewide guideline does not address all the elements of clinical practice and assumes that the individual clinicians are responsible for discussing care with consumers in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables respectful confidential discussion. This includes:

- The use of interpreter services where necessary,
- Advising consumers of their choice and ensuring informed consent is obtained,
- Providing care within scope of practice, meeting all legislative requirements and maintaining standards of professional conduct, and
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements

### This is a High Risk Medication

Only muscle-relax a neonate if confident that the airway can be maintained and hand ventilation can be provided.

## Synonyms

Vecuronium bromide

## Dose and Indications

### For muscle paralysis in ventilated babies and for intubation

#### Intravenous

0.1mg/kg/dose

The dose may be repeated every 1 to 2 hours or as needed for paralysis

**ISBN number:**  
**Endorsed by:**  
**Last Revised:**  
**Contact:**

978-1-74243-862-7  
South Australian Maternal, Neonatal & Gynaecology Community of Practice  
**11/8/2017**  
South Australian Neonatal Medication Guidelines Workgroup at:  
Health:NeoMed@sa.gov.au

# vecuronium

## 10mg injection

### Preparation and Administration

#### Intravenous

Add 10mL of water for injection to the vial (10mg) and shake gently to dissolve. The resulting solution contains 1mg/mL vecuronium.

**PLEASE NOTE: Babies less than 1kg will require a dose less than 0.1mL. Please ensure you double check your dose calculation.**

Weight (kg)	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5
Dose	0.05mg	0.1mg	0.15mg	0.2mg	0.25mg	0.3mg	0.35mg
Volume	0.05mL	0.1mL	0.15mL	0.2mL	0.25mL	0.3mL	0.35mL

Administer as a rapid IV push

Discard remaining solution

### Compatible Fluids

Glucose 5%, glucose 5% and sodium chloride 0.9%, sodium chloride 0.9%, Hartmann's

### Adverse Effects

#### Common

Prolonged paralysis

Note: Hypoxaemia may occur because of inadequate mechanical ventilation and deterioration in pulmonary mechanics

#### Infrequent

Tachycardia and hypotension (particularly when used in combination with opioids)

#### Rare

Anaphylactic reactions

### Monitoring

- > Cardiorespiratory and pulse oximetry monitoring are mandatory. Close monitoring of blood pressure (invasive or non-invasive) is recommended.

**ISBN number:**  
**Endorsed by:**  
**Last Revised:**  
**Contact:**

978-1-74243-862-7  
South Australian Maternal, Neonatal & Gynaecology Community of Practice  
**11/8/2017**  
South Australian Neonatal Medication Guidelines Workgroup at:  
Health:NeoMed@sa.gov.au

# vecuronium

## 10mg injection

### Practice Points

- > Onset of action is 1 to 2 minutes; duration of action is approximately 60 minutes for infants but may be longer in neonates especially preterm
- > Use only if patient is on assisted ventilation
- > Provide eye protection as needed and instil lubricating eye drops every 2 hours
- > Use cautiously in neonates with hepatic or renal impairment and in neonates with fluid and electrolyte imbalance
- > Vecuronium produces less tachycardia and hypotension when compared with pancuronium
- > The neuromuscular blockade of vecuronium is of shorter duration than that of pancuronium.

### Version control and change history

**PDS reference:** OCE use only

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	November 2012	September 2013	Original version
2.0	September 2013	Aug 2017	Revision
3.0	11 Aug 2017	Current	Review

**ISBN number:**  
**Endorsed by:**  
**Last Revised:**  
**Contact:**

978-1-74243-862-7  
 South Australian Maternal, Neonatal & Gynaecology Community of Practice  
**11/8/2017**  
 South Australian Neonatal Medication Guidelines Workgroup at:  
 Health:NeoMed@sa.gov.au