

Phenobarbital (phenobarbitone) Intravenous for Adults

Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife (doctor present)

Important information

- The 200mg/ml strength is a **controlled drug**- must be locked in CD press
- There are numerous important interactions- check current BNF
- See local guidelines for [Status Epilepticus](#)

Available preparations

Phenobarbital 30mg in 1ml ampoule (Martindale brand)

Phenobarbital 60mg in 1ml ampoule (Martindale brand)

Phenobarbital 200mg in 1ml ampoule (Martindale brand) (controlled drug)

Reconstitution

Already in solution

- **Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle**
- **Dilute further prior to administration**

Methods of intravenous administration

Slow intravenous injection

- **DILUTE** each 1ml injection solution to 10ml with Water for injection^(ref 4)
- Administer at a rate of 50mg to 100mg per minute^(ref 1). (Rates greater than 60mg/minute reserved for emergencies such as status epilepticus).
- Maximum rate of injection cannot exceed **100mg per minute**

Dose in adults

Usual dose

- Status epilepticus: give 10mg/kg (max 1000mg^(ref 2,3)) as a slow intravenous injection

Renal and Hepatic impairment

- Caution in mild to moderate impairment - avoid in severe impairment

Monitoring

- Monitor sedation score, respiratory rate, heart rate and blood pressure
- Extravasation may cause tissue damage

Further information

- Phenobarbital sodium = phenobarbitone sodium
- Injection contains propylene glycol

Storage

- Store below 25⁰C
- The 200mg/ml strength must be stored in the controlled drug press

References

Phenobarbital sodium 30mg/ml SPC 18th November 2021

Phenobarbital sodium 200mg/ml SPC 18th November 2021

1: Uptodate - downloaded 07/03/2024

2: Martindale-via Medicinescomplete - accessed online 07/03/2024

3: BNF- via Medicinescomplete- accessed online 07/03/2024

4: Injectable medicines guide- accessed online via Medusa 07/03/2024

Therapeutic classification

Anticonvulsant