Nurse Initiated Medication

Medications should be administered according to this protocol by hospital-accredited staff only. The protocol includes sufficient detail on the medication for the direction and information of nursing staff.

This protocol contains NO AMENDMENTS.

No preparation containing Schedule 4 or Schedule 8 drugs may be included in this Nurse Initiated Protocols

Nurse initiated medications are not be administered on an **ongoing** basis without a medical review. If, on review, the medication is to continue, it must be ordered on the medication chart by the medical officer.

Drug Name: Loratadine

Valid until: Nov 2025

Approved by Drug Committee on: 10-Oct-2022

Developed by:

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Description of the drug:

- Less sedating antihistamine
- Reduce the effects of histamine by binding to the H_1 receptor and stabilising it in an inactive form
- Onset of action 1-3 hours with peak effect 8-12 hours (Duration > 24 hours)

Indications/patient eligibility criteria:

- For use in children over the age of 1 year
- Patients having Generalised Allergic Reaction (GAR). GAR are mild to moderate allergic reactions without respiratory or cardiovascular involvement
- Patient having anaphylaxis: after administration of IM adrenaline for further relief of histamine mediated symptoms.

Expected outcomes:

- Reduction of cutaneous, rhino conjunctival and gastrointestinal symptoms of an allergic reaction

Side effects:

- Nervousness
- Hyperkinesia (muscle spasm)
- Sedation (less likely than traditional antihistamines)
- Headache
- Dry mouth
- Diarrhoea
- Fatigue
- Overall loratadine is very well tolerated and the incidence of side effects is comparable to placebo

Dosage range:

Age	Dose
1-2 years	2.5 mg Stat
>2 years and <30kg	5 mg Stat
>30kg	10 mg Stat

Available Products / Strength:

- Loratadine 1 mg/1 mL oral solution
  Oral solution is acidic and contains sugar. Rinse mouth with water after administration.

- Loratadine 10 mg tablet
  Tablets are practically insoluble in water and aliquot (part-dose) is not recommended. Tablets are single scored and can be cut into half. Tablet may be crushed and dispersed in water or mixed with a spoonful of yoghurt or apple puree. Refer to Don't Rush to Crush Handbook. May be given with or without food.

Route of administration:

- Oral

Contraindications (including possible interaction with other drug therapy):

- Known hypersensitivity to loratadine/desloratadine
- Hypersensitivity to any components of the formulations such as preservative sodium benzoate (in syrup)
- Consider dosage reduction in severe hepatic impairment

Restrictions on categories of staff who may administer the medication and/nursing accreditation criteria, including completion of current nursing education package where applicable:

Allergy and Immunology

- Registered nurses employed by SCHN and supervised by the Allergy and Immunology departments

NSW Specialist Immunisation service (NSWISS)

- Adverse Events Following Immunisation Clinical Nurse Consultant

CHW Emergency Department

- Accredited Registered Nurses in the Emergency Department (see below for accreditation requirements)

Any other information deemed necessary:

- For nursing staff employed in food challenge clinics with SCHN, the Adverse Events Following Immunisation Clinical Nurse Consultant, and accredited nursing staff in CHW ED who meet requirements as listed below**.**

Process for documentation:

- The accredited Registered Nurse must clearly document and sign on the Medication Administration Record (MAR) utilising the Electronic Medication Management (eMM) system the date/time and dose given.
- In the events of Firstnet or eMM downtime, the accredited Registered Nurse must prescribe the dose as per the NSW Health PD2022_032 Medication Handling in NSW Health Public Facilities, on the National Inpatient Medication Chart (paediatric) (NIMC-Paediatric). The Registered Nurse must clearly document and sign on the NIMC(Paediatric) under the "Once Only Medicines" section the date/time and dose given and endorse the order with the words: "Nurse Initiated Mediation."

Nursing NIM Loratadine requirements:

- Completion of the ASCIA Allergy and Anaphylaxis e-training module for Health Professionals or the Professional Certificate in Allergy Nursing. Read and acknowledge the Anaphylaxis and General Allergic reaction policy. Evidence of completion to be submitted to either the nursing education team or the Allergy and Immunology/NSWISS Head of Department.

Observations

- **Observe patient for signs of progression of GAR to anaphylaxis**
- **Observe for adverse effects**
- **Document observations**

Expectation of the RN initiating the medication is to:

- Notify a Medical Officer of the administration as soon as practical
- Clearly document the date, time and dose given and sign on the Medication Administration Record (MAR) utilising the Electronic Medication Management (eMM) system, or the NIMC- Paediatric (during downtime only).
- Utilise the pre-existing "Nurse Initiated Medication" order sentence on the eMM to indicate that Loratadine was prescribed under the Nurse Initiated Medication conditions.
- Document within eMR.

Time/dose limit that a RN can initiate a Nurse Initiated Medication before consultation with a medical officer

- **No further doses** can be administered without review by a medical officer

References

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