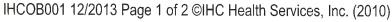
MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS – LABOR AND DELIVERY

For medications commonly used before, during, and after delivery

Note: epidural medications are not included; ask the provider that places the epidural for information on the medications used and side effects.

| √ | Medication Use / Category | Purpose | Common Side Effects | Symptoms of Serious Side Effects* CONTACT NURSE IMMEDIATELY |
|----------|---|--|---|---|
| | Stimulates Contractions oxytocin (Pitocin) | Helps start and continue labor and controls serious bleeding | Cramping | Severe allergic reactions, severe headache, lightheadedness, or sudden and severe uterine pain, nausea, or vomiting |
| | Prostaglandins dinoprostone (Prostin or Cervidil) misoprostol (Cytotec) | Prepares cervix for labor and delivery | Diarrhea, stomach pain, vomiting, nausea, fever, headache | Severe allergic reactions, extreme stomach pain/cramping, dizziness/fainting |
| | Control Bleeding carboprost (Hemabate) misoprostol (Cytotec) methylergonovine (Methergine) | Helps control serious bleeding | Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, uterine cramping, hot flashes, flushing (red face or skin color), dizziness, increased heart rate, blurred vision, dry mouth | Severe uterine cramping |
| | Pain Relief oxycodone & acetaminophen (Percocet), hydrocodone & acetaminophen (Lortab or Norco), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), morphine, fentanyl | Relieves moderate to severe pain | Constipation, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, or headache | Severe allergic reactions (skin rash; itching and/or hives; swelling of the face, lips, or tongue; difficulty breathing), or extreme sleepiness |
| | Pain Medication with Antidote Action nalbuphine (Nubain) | Relieves pain and reduces itching of other pain medications | Drowsiness, sweating, dizziness, nausea, or dry mouth | Severe allergic reactions |
| | Anti-Inflammatory naproxen (Anaprox), ibuprofen (Motrin), ketorolac (Toradol) | Relieves mild to moderate pain and cramping, reduces inflammation | Stomach upset, constipation or diarrhea, dizziness, gas, or heartburn | Severe allergic reactions or severe stomach pain |
| | Antibiotics penicillin, gentamicin, erythromycin, ampicillin(Omnipen), ampicillin/sulbactam (Unasyn), cefazolin (Ancef or Kefzol), clindamycin (Cleocin), ceftriaxone (Rocephin), nitrofurantoin (Macrobid) | Prevent/treat bacterial infections in mom and baby | Diarrhea, nausea, stomach upset, headache, metallic taste (Cleocin), or body ache (Cleocin) | Severe allergic reactions, severe diarrhea, hearing changes (gentamicin), or significant decrease in urine output (gentamicin) |
| | Nausea Relief ondansetron (Zofran) metoclopramide (Reglan) promethazine (Phenergan) | Relieves nausea; reduces anxiety; helps relieve pain | Headache, drowsiness (Phenergan), dizziness, confusion, or dry eyes / dry mouth (Phenergan) | Severe allergic reactions, excessive drowsiness (Phenergan), or pain in hands/fingers (Phenergan) |
| | Itching Relief diphenhydramine (Benadryl) | Relieves itching | Drowsiness, dizziness, dry mouth, or dry eyes | Severe allergic reactions, increased heart rate, or inability to urinate |

^{*} This list includes the most common side effects only. Other serious side effects may occur. For concerns or symptoms not listed here, please talk to your nurse immediately or contact your local pharmacist. If serious side effects occur after your hospital stay, please contact your doctor immediately. Intermountain[®]
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| 1 | Medication Use / Category | Purpose | Common Side Effects | Symptoms of Serious Side Effects* CONTACT NURSE IMMEDIATELY |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| | Relax Uterus / Slow Contractions terbutaline (Brethine) indomethacin (Indocin) nifedipine (Procardia) | Stops labor or slows contractions | Headache, dizziness, flushing (Procardia), nausea, vomiting, anxiety, increased heart rate (Brethine), abdominal pain, stomach upset, constipation | Severe allergic reactions, difficulty breathing, chest pain, swelling of extremities, muscle cramps (Brethine) |
| | Steroids betamethasone (Celestone) dexamethasone | Helps develop baby's lungs before 34 weeks gestation | Headache, insomnia, dizziness, nervousness, or increased blood sugar | Severe allergic reactions |
| | Sleeping Aid zolpidem (Ambien) | Helps sleep begin and continue | Dizziness, headache, or lightheadedness | Severe allergic reactions, hallucinations, or confusion |
| | Bowel Care docusate (Colace) bisacodyl (Dulcolax) senna/docusate (Senna –S) | Relieves constipation | Abdominal cramping or diarrhea | Severe allergic reactions or severe diarrhea |
| | Supplements prenatal vitamin, iron, folic acid | Replaces vitamins and minerals in your body | Stomach upset, intestinal irritation (iron), dark stools (iron), constipation, urine discoloration (iron) | Severe stomach upset (iron) |
| | Reverses Sedation naloxone (Narcan) | Relieves complications from narcotic pain medications | Return of pain that was previously being helped by pain medications | Severe allergic reactions |
| | Seizure Control magnesium sulfate | Prevents seizures | Flushing (red face or skin colcr), diarrhea, fatigue, low blood pressure | Severe allergic reactions, weakness, slurred speech, nausea and vomiting, fatigue, or difficulty breathing |
| | Preterm Labor magnesium sulfate | Protects extremely preterm baby's brain and blood vessels | Flushing (red face or skin color), diarrhea, fatigue, low blood pressure | Severe allergic reactions, weakness, slurred speech, nausea and vomiting, fatigue, or difficulty breathing |
| | High Blood Pressure Control nifedipine (Procardia) labetolol (Trandate) Hydralazine (Apresoline) | Lowers blood pressure | Flushing (red face or skin color), headache, nausea, dizziness, lightheadedness | Severe allergic reactions, severe chest pain, breathing problems, fast heart beat |
| | Low Blood Pressure Control ephedrine | Increases blood pressure | increased heart rate, shakiness, headache, dizziness | High blood pressure, chest pain, breathing problems |
| | Baby Medications vitamin K injection erythromycin eye ointment Hepatitis B vaccination | Vitamin K helps blood clotting and erythromycin reduces eye infections in newborns. These meds are required by the health department in most states; however, a parent can request that their baby not received these medications. See Hepatitis B vaccine information sheet | Side effects for one time dosed medications are limited and often difficult to detect in a newborn baby | Severe allergic reactions |

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