

Phenobarbital (Phenobarbitone)

FORM Oral Solution 50mg/5ml – alcohol free

**** Special Care required – other strengths available****

INDICATION

1. Control of seizures
2. Management of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

DOSE RANGE

1. Control of Seizures N.B Maintenance therapy should only be used on direction of Consultant

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
Birth to 1 month	Maintenance dose* 2.5 – 5mg/kg /dose	12-24 hourly depending on seizure control and levels.	Oral

2. Management of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
Birth to 1 month	Loading Dose 15mg/kg/dose	SINGLE	Oral
	Maintenance dose* 8mg/kg /dose	ONCE daily	

* Maintenance dose starts 24 hours after loading dose.

CAUTIONS, CONTRA-INDICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS

- See Summary of Product Characteristics and most recent edition of BNF for Children (links below)

SPECIAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (for seizure control only)

- Approximate time to steady state 10-14 days
- Target Blood concentration 10-40mg/L
- Ideally a trough level should be taken immediately before the next dose but timing of levels is not critical

FURTHER INFORMATION

- See local NAS policy for details on dose escalation / weaning

LICENSED STATUS Unlicensed Special

LINKS [BNF for Children:](#) / [Electronic Medicines Compendium](#)

APPLICABLE POLICIES [West of Scotland Neonatal Guidelines:](#)

Consult local policy if applicable

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Dose may vary depending on indication, age, renal function, hepatic function, and concomitant medications. This monograph should be used in conjunction with the package insert, BNF for Children, and Summary of Product Characteristics. For further advice contact your clinical pharmacist or pharmacy department.