Emergency Drug Doses for Infants and Children

This guideline for emergency drug dosing has been prepared for physicians requiring assistance with drug doses for pediatric patients. The drugs included are not intended to be exhaustive; therefore, this guideline should not be construed as an endorsement of the drugs selected. Information on drug indications and side effects has been purposely limited. In anticipation of future updates of this guideline, the Committee on Drugs invites comments and suggestions.

ABBREVIATIONS. SC, subcutaneous; q, every; po, oral.

The following list has been prepared by the Committee on Drugs, with the assistance of the Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine. It represents the opinion of the Committees and may differ from information in package inserts of drugs. Doses should be individualized depending on patient response. These are general guidelines only. Physician judgment should be involved in the use of this emergency drug dose information.

**Atropine Sulfate**

Dose: SC—0.04 mg/kg

IV or intratracheal—0.01–0.02 mg/kg per dose

**WARNING:** 0.04 mg/kg or 2 mg maximum total dose, whichever is smaller (except for anticholinesterase poisoning which may require larger doses)

**Bicarbonate**

Dose: IV—1 mEq/kg (Note: use only 0.5-mEq/mL solution for newborns)

**Note:** The use of sodium bicarbonate should be based on documented metabolic acidosis; routine use in cardiac arrest is not recommended

**Calcium Chloride**

Dose: IV—0.15–0.3 mL/kg per dose (0.2–0.4 mEq/kg per dose). Inject slowly. Stop if bradycardia occurs

**WARNING:** Not to be given SQ or IM

Form: 100 mg/mL, in 10-mL ampule or syringe; each 1 mL contains 1.36 mEq of elemental calcium

**Note:** Calcium is recommended for cardiac resuscitation only in cases of documented hypocalcemia

**Diazepam (Valium)**

Dose: (Anticonvulsant) IV—infuse 0.1–0.3 mg/kg q 2 min up to total initial dose of 1.0 mg/kg

**WARNING:** Be prepared to provide respiratory support if necessary

**Diazoxide (Hyperstat)**

Dose: (Hypertensive crisis) IV—1–2 mg/kg given during 15–30 seconds

Maximum total initial dose 5 mg/kg

**Digoxin (Lanoxin)**

Digitalizing dose*: Infants—20–40 μg/kg IV given in 2–3 divided doses during 24–36 h (maximum dose = 1 mg)
Maintenance dose*: Infants—2.5–5 μg/kg q 12 h IV or PO
Children—5 μg/kg q 12 h IV or PO

*WARNING: Do not exceed maximum recommended adult dose

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
Dose: IV 1–2 mg/kg slow infusion (5 min)

Dopamine (Intropin)
Dose: IV infusion—2–30 μg/kg/min
Preparation of infusion solution: 6 × body wt (kg) equals mg of drug to be added to IV solution to make 100 mL. Infusion of 1 mL/h will deliver 1 μg/kg/min

Dobutamine (Dobutrex)
Dose: IV infusion—5–20 μg/kg/min. Preparation of infusion solution same as Dopamine.

Epinephrine (Adrenalin)
Dose: (Systemic anaphylactic shock) SC—0.01 mg/kg per dose (use 1:1,000 dilution = 0.01 mL/kg per dose)
IV—0.1 μg/kg/min (maximum, 1 μg/kg/min)
Preparation of infusion solution: 0.6 × body wt (kg) equals mg of drug to be added to IV solution to make 100 mL. Infusion of 1 mL/h will deliver 0.1 μg/kg/min
(Cardiac resuscitation) IV or intratracheal—0.01 mg/kg per dose (use 1:10,000 dilution = 0.1 mL/kg)
Infusion: Start at 0.1 μg/kg/min (see above for preparation)
WARNING: Never use undiluted 1:1,000 IV, intratracheal, or intracardiac

Furosemide (Lasix)
Dose: IV, IM—1 mg/kg

Glucagon
Dose: SC, IM, IV—0.03 mg/kg
WARNING: Do not exceed 1 mg as the initial dose

Glucose
Dose: IV—2–5 mL/kg (0.2–0.5 g/kg) of 10% dextrose in water and/or constant infusion of 10% dextrose in water at a rate of 100 mL/kg/24 h (8 mg of glucose/kg/min). Blood glucose level should be determined following administration

Hydralazine (Apresoline)
Dose: IV—0.1–0.5 mg/kg, up to a maximum of 2 mg/kg IV q 3–6 h

Insulin (Regular Insulin)
Dose: (Diabetic ketoacidosis) IV infusion dose 0.05–0.1 U/kg/h

Isoproterenol (Isuprel)
Dose: IV infusion—starting dose 0.05–0.1 μg/kg/min, increase dose to 1 μg/kg/min or to desired effect on heart rate and/or improved vascular perfusion (Preparation of infusion solution same as epinephrine)

Lidocaine (Xylocaine)
Dose: IV—0.5–1 mg/kg as a single dose slowly, repeat every 5–10 min to desired effect or until maximum dose of 5 mg/kg given
IV infusion—10–50 μg/kg/min
Preparation of infusion solution: place 100 mg (5 mL) in 500 mL of 5% dextrose in water. Infusion of 3 to 15 mL/kg/h will deliver 10 to 50 μg/kg/min
WARNING: Be prepared for bradycardia and hypotension. Contraindicated in severe heart block. Widening of QRS interval by more than 0.02 seconds or significant ventricular slowing suggests toxicity

Mannitol
Dose: IV—0.25 g/kg; may repeat × 1 to maximum dose of 1–2 g/kg during 2–6 h

Morphine Sulfate
Dose: IV (slowly) or IM—0.1 mg/kg (avoid IM if patient is hypotensive or in shock)

Naloxone (Narcan)
Dose: IV, intratracheal—0.01*–0.1 mg/kg
*For newborns with suspected intoxication with opiates, a minimum of 0.5 mg of naloxone should be used. For children and adolescents, the minimum dose is 2 mg of naloxone. Repeat as necessary for patients depressed with opiate overdose

WARNING: Do not exceed maximum recommended adult dose

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Note: There are different preparations containing varying concentrations of naloxone.

### Nitroprusside (Nipride)

**Dose:** (Antihypertensive) IV infusion starting dose at 1 μg/kg/min  
**WARNING:** Toxicity can result from large doses and/or prolonged infusions

### Norepinephrine (Levophed, Levarterenol bitartrate)

**Dose:** IV infusion—start at 0.1 μg/kg/min, increase dose to 1 μg/kg/min or to desired effect (preparation of infusion solution same as epinephrine)

### Pancuronium (Pavulon)

**Dose:** IV (Inducing paralysis)—0.1 mg/kg  
**WARNING:** Ventilatory support will be necessary

### Paraldehyde

**Dose:** (Anticonvulsant) Rectal—0.3 mL/kg of paraldehyde up to a maximum dose = 7 mL. Make up to 1:1 solution with mineral oil. IM is contraindicated

### Phenobarbital

**Dose:** (Anticonvulsant) IV—10–20 mg/kg* (loading dose); maintenance dose: 2–4 mg/kg IV q 12 h  
(Antiarrhythmic) IV—1–5 mg/kg*  
*Rate of infusion should not exceed 0.1 mL of undiluted preparation/kg/min. Heart rate should be monitored with rate of infusion slowed if it decreases by 10 beats per minute. Maximum initial dose: 1,000 mg

### Propranolol (Inderal)

**Dose:** (Arrhythmias) IV—0.01–0.2 mg/kg per dose during 10 minutes in 5% dextrose

### Procainamide (Pronestyl)

**Dose:** IV—15 mg/kg per dose given during 30 minutes diluted in 5% dextrose  
IV infusion—20–80 μg/kg/min  
**WARNING:** Be prepared for bradycardia and hypotension. Contraindicated in severe heart block. Widening of QRS interval by more than 0.02 seconds or significant ventricular slowing suggests toxicity

### Phenytoin (Dilantin)

**Dose:** (Anticonvulsant) IV—10–20 mg/kg* (loading dose); maintenance dose: 2–4 mg/kg IV q 12 h  
(Antiarrhythmic) IV—1–5 mg/kg*  
*Rate of infusion should not exceed 0.1 mL of undiluted preparation/kg/min. Heart rate should be monitored with rate of infusion slowed if it decreases by 10 beats per minute. Maximum initial dose: 1,000 mg
in water; maximum initial dose = 1 mg for infants or 10 mg for children.

**VOLUME EXPANSION (SHOCK)**

Dose: IV—Rapid IV infusion of 20 mL/kg of crystalloid (normal saline, Lacated Ringers) or 10 mL/kg of colloid (5% albumin or plasmanate) or 10 mL/kg of blood or blood products. Repeat dose as appropriate.

**DC DEFIBRILLATOR SETTINGS FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN**

1 W-s (joules)/kg for tachyarrhythmia conversion
2 W-s (joules)/kg for defibrillation
Double dose if ineffective
Paddle diameter (suggested)
  - 4.5 cm for infants
  - 8 cm for children weighing more than 10 kg

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ence of esophageal dysmotility. Our experience also suggests that esophageal manometry may detect motor abnormalities in asymptomatic patients with these disorders. At the same time, there appears to be no indication for performing esophageal manometry in patients with linear scleroderma in the absence of esophageal symptoms.

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REFERENCES


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