

## NURSING CLINICAL PROTOCOL

## N-ACETYLCYSTEINE INTRAVENOUS FOR ACETAMINOPHEN OVERDOSE – ICU/ ED

- PURPOSE:** To outline the management of patients receiving N-acetylcysteine (NAC) intravenously for acetaminophen overdose.
- SUPPORTIVE DATA:** Acetaminophen toxicity potentially causes hepatic necrosis which can be fatal. Acetylcysteine Injection (Acetadote ®) is the antidote for acetaminophen overdose and is indicated for known or suspected acetaminophen toxicity.
- INITIAL ASSESSMENT:**
1. Assess the following prior to administration:
    - Baseline level of consciousness (LOC)Vital signs (VS)
    - IV patency
  2. Obtain laboratory tests as ordered (APAP (acetaminophen levels), PT/INR, Liver function tests).
- ONGOING ASSESSMENT:**
3. Assess during administration:
    - Signs/symptoms (S/S) of allergic reaction
    - LOC minimum of every 2 hours
    - VS every 30 minutes x2 after initiation of infusion then per routine
    - Lab results as drawn
- ADMINISTRATION:**
4. Ensure that physician is immediately available for the duration of the first dose.
  5. Administer as follows:
    - Loading dose of 150 mg/kg (maximum: 15 grams) over 1 hour
    - Second dose: 50 mg/kg (maximum: 5 grams) infused over 4 hours
    - Third dose: 100 mg/kg (maximum: 10 grams) infused over 16 hours
- SAFETY**
6. STOP infusion immediately if S/S of an allergic reaction occurs and notify physician.
- REPORTABLE CONDITIONS:**
7. Report the following to the physician:
    - S/S of allergic/anaphylatic reaction
    - Change in LOC
    - Deterioration in VS
    - Deterioration in laboratory values
- PATIENT/FAMILY TEACHING:**
8. Instruct on the following:
    - Purpose of the drug
    - Side effects
    - Need to notify nurse for the following:
      - Redness/itching/hives
      - Difficulty breathing
- ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS:**
9. Refer to the following as indicated:
    - Grieving
    - Intravenous Therapy
    - Suicidal Patient

DOCUMENTATION: 10. Document in accordance with standards.

Initial date approved: 8/16	Reviewed and approved by: Professional Practice Committee Nurse Executive Committee Attending Staff Association Executive Committee	Revision Date:
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