

# 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 to 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:** **Ibuprofen**

**Valid until:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Approved by Drug Committee on:** April 2023

### Developed by:

**Team Leader:** Sandra Rocha

**Department:** SCH Emergency Dept

### Team Members:

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### Description of the drug:

- Ibuprofen is commonly used within paediatric emergency departments for safe and effective pain relief of mild and moderate pain
- **Note:** Nurse Initiated Ibuprofen is to be read in conjunction the [Nurse Initiated Analgesia: Clinical Initiatives Nurse - ED - SCH](#)

### Expected outcomes:

- Relief of mild and moderate (1/10 - 7/10) pain in children
- **Note:** Nurse Initiated Ibuprofen is not to be used for fever

### Side effects:

- Abdominal Pain, nausea, dyspepsia, GI ulceration or bleeding, raised liver enzymes, diarrhoea, headache, dizziness, salt and fluid retention, hypertension

### Dosage range:

- 10mg/kg/dose up to every 8 hours
- Maximum single dose of Ibuprofen 400mg
- Patients considered to be overweight or obese should be dosed according to the [Drug dosing for overweight and obese patients-SCH](#)

### Common Strengths:

- Ibuprofen tablets 200mg tablet
- Ibuprofen liquid 100mg/5mL

### Route of administration:

- Oral

**Indications/patient eligibility criteria:**

- Once Only

**Contraindications (including possible interaction with other drug therapy):**

- Allergy to ibuprofen/ other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications
- Hypersensitivity to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (e.g. asthma, rhinitis, urticaria)
- Not eating and drinking
- Administration of ibuprofen or any other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication within the last 8 hours or if parent/carer is unable to confirm previous dosing.
- Administration of 3 or more doses in last 24 hours.
- Received maximum daily dose of 30 mg/kg or more in last 24 hours (not to exceed 1200 mg)
- Age < 6 months
- Symptoms indicating moderate to severe dehydration.
- Children with history of renal impairment, cardiac or liver disease or gastrointestinal bleeding.
- Haematology/oncology patient (current or previous)
- Patients who present with a direct result/complication of their recent surgery or who are likely to need neurosurgical or ENT referral.
- Patients taking any other medications, excluding paracetamol.
- Suspected or confirmed pregnancy
- Pain score above 7/10

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

- Only registered nurses who have been assessed and deemed competent in Nurse Initiated Analgesia may initiate Ibuprofen

**Any other information deemed necessary:**

- Nil

**Process for documentation:**

- The RN must prescribe the dose as per the [NSW Health Medication Handling Policy Directive 2022](#) on the Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart (PINMC) or in the patient's electronic medication administration record (MAR).
- The Registered Nurse must **Clearly** document and sign on the electronic Medication Administration Record (MAR)/ PINMC the date/time and dose given and endorse the order with the words: "Nurse Initiated Medication".
- The patient's current weight must be recorded in the patients' electronic medical record (eMR). If using the Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart (PINMC) the patients' weight must be recorded on it.
- It must be checked by two registered nurses prior to administration.
- CIN Protocol entry into Firstnet eMR

**Nursing assessment:**

- The Registered Nurse must document an assessment, as set out in the [Nurse Initiated Analgesia: Clinical Initiatives Nurse - ED - SCH](#)

**Observations**

- Re-evaluation after 1 hour for analgesic effectiveness and documentation in the patient's record

**Expectation of the RN initiating the medication is to:**

1. **Clearly** document in eMM or sign on the medication chart the date/time and dose given – in the “Once Only Medicines” section of the paediatric medication chart.

**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**

1. Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick 2023 [Nurse Initiated Analgesia: Clinical Initiatives Nurse - ED - SCH](#)
2. Sydney Children's Hospital Network 2016 [Ear, Nose and Throat: Post-Operative Management and Care Practice Guideline](#) [Accessed on 20/04/2023]
3. [Australian Medicines Handbook Children's Dosing Companion: Ibuprofen 2019](#) [Accessed from: on 20/04/2023]
4. Drug Dosing For Overweight And Obese Patients – SCH - Practice Guideline [Accessed from <http://webapps.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/epolicy/policy/3023> on 20/04/2023]
5. [Therapeutic Guidelines: Non Opioid analgesics in pain management 2022](#) Accessed on 20/04/2023]