

Drug Name: Loratadine
NIM Number: 2024-058 v1

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: Loratadine

Valid until: 1/5/27

Approved by Medicine & Therapeutics Committee on: 8th April 2024

Developed by:

Team Leader: Kylie Jacobsen

Department: Allergy & Immunology,
NSW Specialist
Immunisation Service and
CHW Emergency
Department

Team Members:

1. Lara Ford
2. Betina Altavilla
3. Inna Manalili
4. Deidre Brogan
5. Hannah Benton
6. Kathryn Green
7. Pamela Bold
8. Shefali Jani
9. Reva Sharma
10. Doreen Freeman

Description of the drug:

- Less sedating antihistamine
- Reduce the effects of histamine by binding to the H₁ receptor and stabilising it in an inactive form
- Onset of action 1-3 hours with peak effect 8-12 hours (Duration > 24 hours)

Indications/patient eligibility criteria:

- For use in children over the age of 2 years who can tolerate the oral tablet form.
- Patients having GAR are mild to moderate allergic reactions without respiratory or cardiovascular involvement.
- Patient having anaphylaxis: after administration of IM adrenaline for further relief of histamine mediated symptoms.

Drug Name: Loratadine
NIM Number: 2024-058 v1

Expected outcomes:

- Reduction of cutaneous, rhino conjunctival and gastrointestinal symptoms of an allergic reaction

Side effects:

- Nervousness
- Hyperkinesia (muscle spasm)
- Sedation (less likely than traditional antihistamines)
- Headache
- Dry mouth
- Diarrhoea
- Fatigue
- Overall loratadine is very well tolerated and the incidence of side effects is comparable to placebo

Dosage range:

Age	Dose
• >2years <30Kg	5mg Stat
• >30kg	10 mg Stat

Available Products / Strength:

Loratadine 10 mg tablet

- Tablets are practically insoluble in water and aliquot (part-dose) is not recommended.
- Tablets are single scored and can be cut into half.
- Full Tablet or half tablet may be crushed and dispersed in water or mixed with a spoonful of yoghurt or apple puree. Refer to [Don't Rush to Crush Handbook](#).
- May be given with or without food.

Route of administration:

- Oral

Contraindications (including possible interaction with other drug therapy):

- Known hypersensitivity to loratadine/desloratadine
- Hypersensitivity to any excipients of the formulations such as but not limited to Lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, colloidal anhydrous silica.
- Consider dosage reduction (to 5mg) in severe hepatic impairment

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

Allergy and Immunology

- Registered nurses employed by SCHN and supervised by the Allergy and Immunology Department.

NSW Specialist Immunisation service (NSWISS)

- Adverse Events Following Immunisation Clinical Nurse Consultant

CHW Emergency Department

- Accredited Registered Nurses in the Emergency Department (see below for accreditation requirements)

Drug Name: Loratadine
NIM Number: 2024-058 v1

Any other information deemed necessary:

- For nursing staff employed in food challenge clinics with SCHN, the Adverse Events Following Immunisation Clinical Nurse Consultant, and accredited nursing staff in CHW ED who meet requirements as listed below.

Process for documentation:

- The RN must prescribe the dose as per the NSW Health PD2022_032 Medication Handling in NSW Health Public Facilities on the Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart (PNIMC) or in the patient's electronic medication administration record (MAR).
- The Registered Nurse must use the Nurse Initiated Medication (NIM) order sentence available in Electronic Medication Management (eMM) and clearly document and sign on the electronic Medication Administration Record (MAR) the date, time and dose given. On PNIMC (if used during downtime), the date, time and dose given should be prescribed in the "Once Only" section of the chart.
- The patient's current weight must be recorded in the patients' electronic medical record (eMR). If using the PNIMC the patients' weight must be recorded on it.

Documentation to be kept in clinical area and should be transferred or available to other clinical areas as necessary

Nursing NIM Loratadine accreditation requirements:

- Completion of the ASCIA Allergy and Anaphylaxis e-training module for Health Professionals or the Professional Certificate in Allergy Nursing.
- Read and acknowledge the Anaphylaxis and General Allergic reaction policy.
- Evidence of completion to be submitted to either the nursing education team or the Allergy and Immunology/NSWISS Head of Department.

Observations

- **Observe patient for signs of progression of GAR to anaphylaxis**
- **Observe for adverse effects**
- **Document observations**

Expectation of the RN initiating the medication is to:

- Notify a Medical Officer of the administration as soon as practical
- Clearly document the date, time and dose given and sign on the Medication Administration Record (MAR) utilising the Electronic Medication Management (eMM) system, or the NIMC-Paediatric (during downtime only).
- Utilise the pre-existing "Nurse Initiated Medication" order sentence on the eMM to indicate that Loratadine was prescribed under the Nurse Initiated Medication conditions.
- Document within eMR.

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

- AMH Children's Dosing Companion. (2024). Loratadine. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from [Loratadine - AMH Children's Dosing Companion \(hcn.com.au\)](https://www.hcn.com.au/AMH-Childrens-Dosing-Companion)
- AMH. (2022). Loratadine. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from <https://amhonline.amh.net.au.acs.hcn.com.au/chapters/allergy-anaphylaxis/antihistamines/less-sedating-antihistamines/loratadine>



Drug Name: Loratadine

NIM Number: 2024-058 v1

- The Children's Hospital at Westmead. (2019). Loratadine - Meds 4 Kids Dosing Guide Westmead. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from <https://webapps.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/meds4kids/browse/L>
- Micromedex. (2022). Loratadine. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from <https://www.micromedexsolutions.com/micromedex2/librarian/deeplinkaccess?institution=7u4n13i2a54o65q76u87im200515^6g2Sq^7cC34&source=deepLink#>
- MIMS Australia. (2022). MIMS Online - Lorapaed. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from https://www.mimsonline.com.au.acs.hcn.com.au/Search/AbbrPI.aspx?ModuleName=ProductInfo&searchKeyword=lorapaed&PreviousPage=~/Search/QuickSearch.aspx&SearchType=&ID=75400001_2
- NSW Health. (2022, August 11). Medication Handling. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2022_032.pdf
- Sydney Children's Hospital Network. (2023, December 1). Medication Administration Practice Guideline. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from <https://webapps.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/epolicy/policy/6238>
- Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. (2019, November 1). Anaphylaxis and Generalised Allergic Reaction (GAR). Retrieved March 14, 2024, from <https://webapps.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/epolicy/policy/4578>