



REGIONAL ADULT PARENTERAL DRUG MONOGRAPH

GENERIC NAME

flumazenil

Effective Date: Dec 2012 Revised Date: Nov 2024	CLASSIFICATION Benzodiazepine Antagonist	OTHER NAMES Anexate	PAGE 1 of 2
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ADMINISTRATION POLICY:
 IV Bolus - May be administered by a nurse
 IV Infusion - May be administered by a nurse

RECONSTITUTION/DILUTION/ADMINISTRATION:

Available as: 0.1 mg/mL - 5 mL vials
 • Contact the Manitoba/Ontario Poison Control Centre at **1-855-776-4766**

IV Bolus: Administer undiluted only through a freely running IV infusion into a large vein over 15 to 30 seconds

IV Infusion: Pump Library:

Drug Library	Dose Rate	Short Name	Care Unit
Yes	mg/h	flumaz	General & Critical Care
Drug	Diluent	Final Volume (VTBI)	Final Concentration
2.5 mg (25 mL of 0.1 mg/mL)	100 mL normal saline	125 mL	0.02 mg/mL
Clinical Advisory:			
Soft Low Dose Limit: 0.1 mg/h		Soft High Dose Limit: 1 mg/h	

Maximum concentration: 0.1 mg/mL

DOSAGE:

Treatment of Benzodiazepine overdose:

Initial: **IV bolus:** 0.2 mg IV over 2 minutes. If the desired level of consciousness is not obtained 30 seconds after the dose, 0.3 mg can be administered over 3 minutes; if the desired level of consciousness is still not obtained, 0.5 mg can be administered over 5 minutes and repeated at 1-minute intervals; usual cumulative dosage range: 1 to 3 mg; usual cumulative maximum dose: 3 mg

Re-sedation: Repeat IV Bolus 0.5 to 1 mg dose as required OR give as IV infusion of 0.1 to 0.5 mg/h

Reversal of General Anesthesia/Sedation:

Initial: **IV bolus:** 0.2 mg over 2 minutes; if the desired level of consciousness is not obtained after 1 minute, 0.2 mg may be repeated at 1-minute intervals up to 4 times; usual cumulative dosage range: 0.6 to 1 mg; maximum cumulative dose: 1 mg

Re-sedation: Repeat IV bolus 0.2 to 1 mg doses as required

IV infusion: 0.1 to 1 mg/hour

Maximum single dose: 5 mg

Maximum daily dose: 1.5 mg/hour



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STABILITY/COMPATIBILITY:

Stability of Final Admixture: 24 hours at room temperature

Compatibility: Compatible with normal saline, D5W, Ringers Lactate

PRECAUTIONS, POTENTIAL ADVERSE REACTIONS:

- CNS: Agitation, anxiety, confusion and dysphoria due to abrupt awakening, seizures or withdrawal symptoms (in benzodiazepine overdoses or in chronic benzodiazepine use).
- Respiratory: hyperventilation, dyspnea
- Cardiovascular: Palpitations, bradycardia or tachycardia, chest pain, arrhythmia (rare)
- GI: Nausea and vomiting are common

Other: Mild pain at injection site, increases sweating

ADDITIONAL NOTES AND NURSING CONSIDERATIONS:

- Flumazenil may not completely reverse benzodiazepine-induced respiratory depression. It is intended as an adjunct to, not a substitute for, proper maintenance of an airway
- Re-sedation may occur in patients who have responded to flumazenil

Elderly patients: Use incremental doses of 0.1 mg, since elderly patients often receive smaller doses of benzodiazepines