

NAUSEA AND VOMITING – PEDIATRIC

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Indications:

- Patients that present or develop nausea and/or vomiting before or during transport to the hospital provided they have no contraindications.

Information Needed:

- Discomfort or condition: OPQRST (Onset, Provocation, Quality, Radiation, Region, Severity, Timing)
- Associated symptoms: Fever and/or chills, passing flatus, abdominal pain, or diarrhea. Color of stool if different from usual.
- Gastrointestinal: Time and description of last meal or any other suspicious ingestions, description of vomitus, if any, history of similar episodes in the past and time of last bowel movement. History of reflux.
- Neurologic: Presence of a headache or trauma to the head.
- Oncologic: History of recent chemo or radiation therapy.
- Medication history: Antibiotics, toxin or toxic ingestion.
- Medical history: surgery, medications, any sick contacts or others with similar symptoms, and any remedies attempted.

Objective Findings:

- General appearance: severity of nausea/vomiting, skin color, capillary refill.
- Vital signs
- Resolution of symptoms with treatment

Treatment:

- Position of comfort
- Routine medical care
- Consider Ondansetron (Zofran) ODT (Oral Dissolving Tablet) or IV

AGE	DOSE
<2 years	Pediatric Base Hospital Order
2-3 years	2 mg
4-14 years	4 mg

- Consider IV access and fluids for signs of hypoperfusion.

Contraindications:

- Avoid in patients with known sensitivity to Ondansetron (Zofran) or other serotonin antagonists (eg. Granisetron (Kytril), Dolasetron (Anzemet), Palonosetron (Aloxi).
- Do not use in patients known to have Phenylketonurics (contains phenylalanine)

Precautions and Comments:

- If other symptoms exist, refer to those treatment protocols after Ondansetron (Zofran) is given.
- Can be used in patients who develop nausea from narcotics.
- Patient must be at least 6 kgs to be used.
- For patients under 2 years of age, Pediatric Base Hospital contact required for Ondansetron order.
- Do NOT attempt to push the ODT through the foil backing. With dry hands, moisture on hands can cause unintended disintegration of the medication, PEEL OFF the foil backing from 1 blister and GENTLY remove the tablet.
- If the child is between 2-3 years of age, cut the ODT in half.
- IMMEDIATELY place the ONDANSETRON (ZOFTRAN) ODT on top of the tongue where it will dissolve in seconds, the patient's saliva is all that is required. No additional liquid is needed.
- Although unlikely, side effects include headache, anaphylaxis, rash, flushing, prolonged QT, dizziness, diarrhea, tachycardia, sedation, or hypotension. Exclude other causes first.