Guidelines for the Use of Naloxone (Narcan®)

Recommended Neonatal Dose, Route, and Interval

- 0.1 mg/kg rapid IV push (preferred), but doses as low as 0.01mg/kg may be given.
- May be given IM if adequate perfusion.
- May repeat in 3-5 minutes if no response during resuscitation.
- NOTE: Short duration of action (1-4 hours) may necessitate more than one dose as duration of action of narcotic may exceed that of naloxone. Repeat as needed to maintain opiate reversal.

Chief Indications

- Narcotic antagonist used to reverse the effects of narcotic-induced respiratory depression and history of narcotics administered to mother within past 4 hours.

Possible Adverse Reactions:

- May precipitate narcotic withdrawal syndrome, including seizures, in patients dependent on narcotics or in newborns delivered of narcotic-dependent mothers.

Contraindications & Precautions

- Hypersensitivity to naloxone
- **Do not use if maternal narcotic addiction is suspected as it may precipitate withdrawal, including seizures.**

Nursing Implications

- Monitor respiratory effort and neurologic status.
- Onset: 1-2 minutes after IV (preferred), 60 minutes after IM
- Half-life in neonates is approximately 70 minutes

References:
1. Neofax 2009

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