

## PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY FAMILY INFORMATION: FOR SUBLINGUAL AND RECTAL LORAZEPAM ADMINISTRATION

**APPLIES TO: CHILDREN WITH INTRACTABLE EPILEPSY OR FOR THE TREATMENT OF STATUS EPILEPTICUS**

**YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER HAS PRESCRIBED:**

- Sublingual Lorazepam       Rectal Lorazepam

### INTRODUCTION

The following information on Lorazepam (also known as Ativan®) and instructions how to give this medication are provided to help you manage your child's intractable seizures at home. Please be sure your physician or nurse practitioner has provided you with the exact dosage for your child and specific instructions about when to give this medication.

### HOW LORAZEPAM WORKS:

- Slows many levels of the central nervous system and makes brain cells less irritable
- Useful for prolonged seizures (status epilepticus)

### DRUG INFORMATION:

- **Lorazepam is absorbed usually within 2 minutes after rectal or sublingual administration and takes approximately 5 to 10 minutes to work.**
- Place against the inner lip or inside of cheek. Do not force open the teeth to place under the tongue. A good way to help it absorb in the mouth is to wipe dry the portion of the lip or cheek where you are placing the Lorazepam. Often children will drool and therefore it is important to make sure that they do not lose the medication before it has a chance to be absorbed.

### WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE LORAZEPAM:

- Patients with allergies to it, or have liver or kidney disease because the drug is metabolized (broken down) by the liver and excreted by the kidneys. Talk to your health care provider first.

### SIDE EFFECTS:

- More common: dizziness, drowsiness, confusion, hyperactivity, agitation, blurred vision, unsteadiness, nausea, vomiting
- Rare: increased heart rate, stoppage of breathing (at extremely high doses)

### DOSAGE:

- The dosage has been calculated out based on your child's weight. It is **your** responsibility to let your health care provider know if your child's weight changes.

- \_\_\_\_\_ is to be given \_\_\_\_\_ mg of Lorazepam

by \_\_\_\_\_ as of \_\_\_\_\_ . Please be sure to reassess this

**dose frequently with your health care provider.**

## HOW TO GIVE:

### Sublingual Lorazepam

- Place the tablet on the inner side of the lower lip or inside cheek area and gently massage the tablet until it is dissolved. The tablet should dissolve within 30 seconds to 1 minute.
- Note: Often children will drool and it is important to make sure your child does not lose the medication before it has a chance to be absorbed. Use a cloth or sleeve to wipe the area dry before administration.
- Avoid placing the tablet near the back of your child's mouth since this could cause your child to swallow it and make the Lorazepam work less quickly.
- If your child does swallow the tablet, do not repeat the dose.
- Do not place your finger or any object between the teeth since during a seizure the teeth may be clenched and a serious bite could result or your child could choke on the object.
- When giving the medication, do not restrain the child. Move with them.

### Rectal Lorazepam

- Flip off the top of the vial.
- Draw the prescribed amount into a syringe.
- **REMOVE THE NEEDLE** before administering into the rectum. NO sharp object should ever be inserted into the rectum.
- With your child lying on his/her side, insert syringe ½ way (or approximately 5cm) into the rectum.
- You may lubricate the tip of the syringe if you prefer but it should slide in very easily. Never force the syringe into the rectum.
- Inject medication slowly and steadily. It should not take longer than 10 seconds.
- Hold child's buttocks together for 2 minutes if possible. Do not restrain the child but move with them.

## OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS:

- **Please note the time the medication is given and the length of time it took to stop the seizure.**
- **It is important that you call 911 if your child's seizure lasts greater than five minutes.**
- **If unsure of the type of emergency care your child needs, call 911.**
- **Keep the medication in a locked area out of reach of children.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EPILEPSY . . .

Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre Web Site

[http://www.lhsc.on.ca/Patients\\_Families\\_Visitors/Childrens\\_Hospital/Programs\\_and\\_services/Neurology/](http://www.lhsc.on.ca/Patients_Families_Visitors/Childrens_Hospital/Programs_and_services/Neurology/)

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(519) 433-4073

[www.epilepsy.com](http://www.epilepsy.com)