

Medication: Furosemide	PDN: 6933.04	Last Updated: June 28, 2013	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Steven Carrigan*	Page 1 of 2
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FUROSEMIDE (Lasix)

1.0 Classification

- Diuretic

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Inhibits sodium reabsorption by the kidneys, causing diuresis; the vasodilatory effect reduces cardiac workload

3.0 Indications

- May be given for interfacility transfers as requested by a physician or in an extended care program for patients with fluid overload

4.0 Contraindications

- Pregnancy
- Known hypersensitivity to furosemide or sulphonamide diuretics
- Hypovolemia or hypotension

5.0 Precautions

- Administration of furosemide to patients with pneumonia increases mortality; it can be difficult to distinguish CHF from other conditions such as pneumonia therefore should not be given until patient has been diagnosed with fluid overload
- Administer furosemide with caution in patients with a fever (temperature greater than 38°C), as fever often indicates an infectious process such as sepsis of pneumonia and these patients should not receive furosemide

6.0 Route

- May be given IV

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 40 mg slow IV push or as directed by the physician

8.0 Supplied

- 2 mL ampoule of 10 mg/mL (replacing 4 mL vial of 10 mg/mL)

9.0 May Be Given By

- ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects

- Hypotension
- Arrhythmias
- Potassium depletion
- Dizziness
- Nausea and vomiting

11.0 Special notes

- CHF responds best to nitrates and positive pressure (e.g. CPAP/PEEP); furosemide is a 3rd line agent
- Pregnancy category C [if the patient will benefit from a Category C drug, it is generally used]

12.0 References

- Respiratory Distress Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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