

Prescription Instructions for Intranasal Medications

Midazolam nasal spray 15mg/3ml (15ml total)

- Preparation instructions:
 - o Using 15mg/3ml midazolam ampoules for injection
 - o Place 5 ampoules of 15mg/3ml midazolam into a 15ml nasal spray bottle
 - o This gives total 75mg in 15ml, and provides 150 x 0.1ml doses of 0.5mg midazolam
- Indications:
 - o Mainly for dyspnoea with anxiety
 - o May also be used for anxiety, agitation, myoclonus, or pre-cares when pain or anxiety may be precipitated
 - o (Unlikely to be able to achieve sufficient dose via intranasal route for seizure management in adults)
- Dosing:
 - o Initial dose is 1 spray in one or both nostrils (0.5-1mg), wait 15 minutes to assess effect
 - o If still symptomatic a further 1 spray per nostril may be administered
- Typical prescription example:
 - o "Midazolam 15mg/3ml nasal spray (15ml total). Administer 1-2 doses (0.5mg per spray) into one or both nostrils up to every hour as required for shortness of breath or anxiety"

Fentanyl nasal spray 50mcg/ml (20ml total)

- Preparation instructions:
 - o Using 100mcg/2ml or 500mcg/10ml fentanyl ampoules for injection
 - o Place 10 ampoules of 100mcg/2ml or 2 ampoules of 500mcg/10ml fentanyl into a 20ml nasal spray bottle
 - o This gives total 1000 micrograms in 20ml, and provides 200 x 0.1ml doses of 5mcg fentanyl
- Indications:
 - o Mainly for pain (particularly incident type pain), or dyspnoea
 - o May be used pre-emptively for painful procedures or cares when short duration of action is preferable to longer-acting analgesics
- Dosing:
 - o Initial dose is 1 spray in both nostrils (total 2 sprays = 10mcg) for an opioid-naïve patient, or up to 5 sprays (25mcg) in a patient on background opioid, up to hourly as-needed (PRN)
 - o Dose may be titrated to effect, though generally doses in excess of 50mcg are difficult to achieve effectively via the intranasal route due to volume and absorption
 - o A maximum number of doses per 24 hours should be stated on the prescription
- Typical prescription example:
 - o "Fentanyl 50mcg/ml nasal spray (20ml total). Administer 1 dose (5mcg per spray) into each nostril (total 10mcg) up to every hour as required for pain or shortness of breath. Do not use more than 10 doses in 24 hours"