		Type: Drug Guideline	Document reference: 2980	Manual Classification: Waikato DHB Drug Guidelines
Title: Vitamin K (phytomenadione) for neonates			Effective date: 1 April 2020	
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			Document expiry date: 1 April 2023	

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BRIEF ADMINISTRATION GUIDE

For detailed information refer to [The Australasian Neonatal Medicines Formulary vitamin K₁ guideline](#)



Critical Note: there are minor variations between the ANMF and Waikato DHB best practice within this drug guideline – see **shaded text**

- Indications:**
- Prophylaxis and treatment of vitamin K deficiency bleeding including haemorrhagic disease of the newborn.
 - **Supplementation in conjugated hyperbilirubinaemia**

Route: Intravenous, intramuscular, oral or subcutaneous
Supplied as phytomenadione 2 mg/0.2 mL ampoule
(Note: the contents of the ampoule can be administered orally).

Dose: Prophylaxis of Vitamin K deficiency (IM route preferred)

Route	Dose	Frequency
IM	<1500 g: 0.5 mg (0.05 mL) >1500 g: 1 mg (0.1 mL)	Single dose at birth
IV	0.3 mg/kg (max dose 1mg)	Single dose at birth
Oral	2 mg	3 doses: first dose at birth, second dose 3-7 days of age, third dose at 4 weeks of age

Treatment of Vitamin K deficiency (IV route)

- 1 mg as a slow IV bolus (maximum 1 mg / minute).
- May be given subcutaneously if venous access is not available
- Dose can be repeated in 4-6 hours if required.

Supplementation in treatment of conjugated hyperbilirubinaemia)

Note: given in combination with other fat soluble vitamins (refer to [Starship guideline](#))

- 2 mg once a day (IV or oral) and increase according to INR.

Preparation and administration:

Intramuscular administration


- Administer appropriate dose for weight into the thigh muscle in the leg
- Wash injection site well before needle insertion if mother is Hepatitis B positive

Intravenous Infusion

- Draw up required dose and administer by slow intravenous injection (not exceeding 1 mg / minute)
- If required dilute 2 mg (0.2 mL) up to 2 mL with glucose 5% or sodium chloride 0.9% to make a 1 mg/mL solution
- Discard any unused ampoule contents remaining

Oral

- Draw up 2mg (0.2 mL) into the dispenser provided in the packet or an oral syringe
- Administer the contents of the dispenser or syringe directly into the mouth (or orogastric tube)
- Follow dose with fluid e.g. breast milk to ensure it is swallowed

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Monitoring:

- Observe injection site for bleeding or any reaction
- Monitor prothrombin time when treating clotting abnormalities

Competency for administration:

This procedure is carried out by, or under, the direct supervision of a registered nurse/registered midwife who holds current Waikato DHB Generic Medicine Management and IV certification (if giving intravenously).

Associated documents:

- [Vitamin K Administration in the New-born](#). Waikato DHB Women's Health guideline 2289
- [Vitamin K for Newborn Babies to Prevent Serious Bleeding](#) (KidsHealth)
- Jaundice – Management of neonatal jaundice. Auckland DHB clinical guideline, July 2018. Accessed via <https://www.starship.org.nz/guidelines/jaundice-management-of-neonatal-jaundice/>
- Jaundice – investigation of prolonged. Auckland DHB clinical guideline, February 2020. Accessed via <https://www.starship.org.nz/guidelines/jaundice-investigation-of-prolonged/>

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