

POLICY STATEMENT

The Registered Nurse (RN) / Registered Midwife (RM) is authorised to instigate nurse/midwife-initiated medication without an authorised prescriber's order under the specific circumstances set out in the **INDICATIONS** section and provided there are no contraindications present.

It is important for nursing and midwifery staff to remain aware that:

- Minor ailments may be symptoms of other more serious diseases or may be adverse reactions to medication already prescribed
- Nurse-initiated medication may interact with the patient's prescribed medication
- The maximum daily recommended dose of the medication must not be exceeded¹

The administering nurse/midwife must record the administration on an approved paper or electronic medication chart, clearly indicating that the medicine was nurse initiated.

If the patient continues to require the medication (i.e., more than two doses in 24 hours) then a medical officer (MO) must be consulted and a regular or PRN order obtained.

A change in the patient's condition such as newly occurring or increasing severity of symptoms must be reported to the MO and investigated.

INDICATIONS

Treatment of bruising in adults

CONTRAINDICATIONS

There are no known contraindications to the use of heparinoids.³

PRECAUTIONS

For external use only
Bleeding or broken skin
Proximity to the eye
Anticoagulant therapy

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Very occasionally, heparinoids will cause reddening of the skin in some patients. In this case, treatment with heparinoids should be stopped.

HISTORY/ASSESSMENT

Assess cause and extent of bruising

PROTOCOL/ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES

Caution: CHECK for allergies and/or contraindications			
Drug	Dose	Route	Frequency
Heparinoid cream	Apply a 3 to 5 cm ribbon of cream to the affected area	Topical	Once
Massage gently around the edge of the affected area			

MONITORING - POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS/INTERACTIONS

Pre-treatment with heparinoid cream may produce an increase in the effect of intravenously administered heparin or other anticoagulants.

DOCUMENTATION

A record of the administration must be made on the approved paper or electronic medication chart noting that the medication was nurse initiated.

A further record of the medication administered including indication, dose and effect must be included in the patient's health care record.

PRACTICE POINTS

Do not apply to bleeding areas or allow contact with the conjunctiva of the eye.

REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

1. [NSW Health Policy Directive Medication Handling PD2022_032](#)
2. [MIMs Online](#). Hirudoid. 01 December 2020.

REVISION and APPROVAL HISTORY

Date	Version Number	Author and Approval
July 2015	DRAFT	Pharmacy Department, St George Hospital
September 2015	1	Approved by SESLHD Drug & QUM Committee
May 2018	DRAFT 2	Reviewed by nursing and pharmacy staff. Minor wording updates made. References updated.
July 2018	2	Approved by SESLHD Quality Use of Medicines Committee
September 2021	DRAFT 3	Reviewed by nursing and pharmacy staff. Minor wording and reference updates.
October 2021	3	Approved by SESLHD Quality Use of Medicines Committee
June 2023	DRAFT 4	NSW Medicines Formulary reviewed. Reviewed by nursing and pharmacy staff.
September 2023	4	Approved by SESLHD Drug and Therapeutics Committee