

# OXYTOCIN (PITOCIN)

## PHARMACOLOGY & MECHANISM OF ACTIONS:

- ❑ Hormone
- ❑ Oxytocin is a naturally occurring hormone that is produced by the pituitary gland
- ❑ Oxytocin causes contraction of uterine smooth muscle, thereby controlling severe postpartum hemorrhage
- ❑ Oxytocin also exhibits vasopressor and antidiuretic effects
- ❑ Onset of action is immediately
- ❑ Half life is 3-9 minutes
- ❑ Duration approximately 1 hour

## INDICATIONS:

- ❑ Post partum control of severe vaginal bleeding, after expulsion of the placenta

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- ❑ Pregnancy (pre-delivery)
- ❑ Placenta not expelled

## ADMINISTRATION:

|           | ADULT  | PEDIATRIC                        |           |
|-----------|--|----------------------------------|-----------|
| PARAMEDIC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Mix 20 units in 1000 mL NS</li><li>❑ Administer IV, line running wide open</li></ul> | <i>NOT FOR USE ON PEDIATRICS</i> | PARAMEDIC |

## PRECAUTIONS & SIDE EFFECTS:

- ❑ Hypotension
- ❑ Arrhythmias
- ❑ Tachycardia
- ❑ Seizures
- ❑ Coma
- ❑ Nausea
- ❑ Vomiting

## SPECIAL NOTES:

- ❑ Excess oxytocin can cause over stimulation of the uterus and possible uterine rupture.
- ❑ Vital signs and uterine tone should be closely monitored.
- ❑ Breast feeding by the newborn will stimulate the natural release of oxytocin from the mother's body and should be encouraged, if possible, after every delivery.
- ❑ Expect contractions and/or fundal massage to be very uncomfortable for the patient.
- ❑ Prior to administration, verify that the baby and placenta have been delivered. Confirm, by history, the patient is not expecting multiple births.
- ❑ If the placenta appears to have been incompletely expelled, contact OLMC prior to administration.