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# Breathing difficulty affecting oxygenation Magnesium sulfate in maternity care

Pharmacology-related Cases | Focused diagnosis-based template

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Fictional educational example. Individualize using verified patient findings, authorized treatment and current local protocols. No real patient record or observed outcome is claimed.

## Clinical assessment

Subjective: Feels flushed and asks why close observations are needed.

Objective findings and required checks: Respiration, reflexes, consciousness and urine output require protocol-based monitoring.

Physical examination and investigations: Review the indication, infusion order, renal function and protocol-defined toxicity observations.

Supply actual values, units, timing and trends during supervised application. Do not invent missing clinical data.

## Clinical focus and pathophysiology

Magnesium sulfate in maternity care: Magnesium reduces seizure risk in the indicated maternity setting; accumulation may depress neuromuscular and respiratory function.

## Medical / surgical management

Use an appropriately checked infusion, monitor as prescribed and escalate suspected toxicity immediately.



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## Illustrative drug and treatment study

| Medicine / treatment | Purpose | Nursing checks |
|---|---|---|
| Magnesium sulfate | Prevent or treat eclamptic seizures when indicated | Verify preparation/rate and monitor respiration, reflexes and urine |
| prescribed calcium treatment if indicated | Manage magnesium toxicity under emergency orders | Follow the authorized protocol. |

Treatment examples are not a prescription. Verify the authorized product, dose, route, timing, contraindications and current local product information.



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# Focused nursing-problem template

Nursing diagnoses use original clinical problem wording. They are not the licensed NANDA-I classification. Verify any formal label or code against your institution's licensed current edition; select actual or risk diagnoses only when supported by assessment.

Context task: Establish the immediate clinical priorities and verify the baseline before assuming a diagnosis.

Set individualized measurable targets and an exact review time. Select actual or risk statements only when supported by assessment.

| Assessment: subjective / objective | Nursing diagnosis: original problem wording | Short- and longer-term goals | Nursing interventions with rationale | Evaluation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ask: Ask about breathlessness, chest tightness and activity tolerance. Assess: Record respiratory rate, effort, SpO2 and mental state against the prescribed target. | Breathing difficulty affecting oxygenation. Possible factors: altered ventilation or gas exchange. Validate against the patient's assessment. | Short-term: At the next patient-specific reassessment: Breathing effort improves and oxygenation remains within the individualized target. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Explains the respiratory action plan and demonstrates the prescribed device technique. | 1. Reassess work of breathing and response to each intervention. Rationale: Trend changes identify deterioration earlier than a single reading. 2. Position to ease breathing, cluster care and allow rest. Rationale: This can reduce respiratory demand and distress. 3. Give oxygen and respiratory medicines only according to the clinical prescription or emergency protocol. Rationale: Individualized treatment supports oxygenation without unsafe blanket targets. 4. Use an appropriately checked infusion, monitor as prescribed and escalate suspected toxicity immediately. Rationale: Magnesium reduces seizure risk in the indicated maternity setting; accumulation may depress neuromuscular and respiratory function. The condition-specific plan addresses the underlying problem while response is monitored. | Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement. |



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## Apply this template

Complete with verified data: assessment cues; supported actual problem or risk; measurable outcome and review time; selected authorized interventions and rationale; observed response and next action.

Subjective / objective cues: _____

Patient-specific target and review time: _____

Evaluation evidence and next action: _____



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## Health education and continuing care

Explain the purpose, observation needs and symptoms to report; continued care follows the maternity team.

Transition only after clinical readiness is confirmed. Reconcile medicines, check access and caregiver support, and document who will review the patient and when.

## Urgent warning signs

**Respiratory depression, absent reflexes with concern, oliguria or reduced consciousness requires immediate maternity emergency review.**

## Evaluation and conclusion

For each goal, document met, partly met or not met using observed evidence and the review time. Reassess and revise if progress is inadequate. Individual assessment, prioritized care and coordinated review guide this topic.

## Quick Revision

- Magnesium reduces seizure risk in the indicated maternity setting; accumulation may depress neuromuscular and respiratory function.

- Priority concerns: Breathing difficulty affecting oxygenation.

- Respiratory depression, absent reflexes with concern, oliguria or reduced consciousness requires immediate maternity emergency review.

- Explain the purpose, observation needs and symptoms to report; continued care follows the maternity team.

**Exam / viva: What assessment evidence supports this problem, and what measurable result would demonstrate improvement?**

## References

Nursing Fundamentals, 2e - Ernstmeyer & Christman (editors), Open RN / WisTech Open, 2024
https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/nursingfundamentals/



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Nursing Pharmacology, 2e - Ernstmeyer & Christman (editors), Open RN / WisTech Open, 2023
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