

Oral Acetylcysteine (NAC)

Background

The Poison Centre does NOT endorse home or self-administration of oral NAC under any circumstances. At the very least, each dose **MUST** be observed by a Health Care Professional.

Oral NAC can be considered in rare circumstances when IV access is not available OR when a history of a severe reaction to IV NAC has been documented in the past.

Any vomiting of a NAC dose within an hour of administration requires a repeat oral dose. Oral NAC can be given if at least one hour has passed since the administration of activated charcoal.

Oral NAC Dosing

LOADING DOSE:

Dilute 0.7 mL/kg (i.e. 140 mg/kg) of 20% NAC in three times the volume of juice.
Give orally.

Q4H MAINTENANCE DOSE:

Dilute 0.35 mL/kg (i.e. 70 mg/kg) of 20% NAC in three times the volume of juice.
Give orally every 4 hours.

Note: For patients > 100 kg, use a maximum weight of 100 kg (220 lb) for dosing.

Patients receiving acetylcysteine (NAC):

- Repeat VBG, lactate, electrolytes, glucose, BUN, creatinine, AST, ALT, and PT/INR every 12 hours.
- Repeat acetaminophen level every 12 hours until undetectable.

Once [STOPPING CRITERIA](#) have been met, no further doses.

STOPPING CRITERIA NOT MET: Apply stopping rules at each 12 hour interval.



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