

ORAL N-ACETYLCYSTEINE (NAC)

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 HC 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.



As of April 2025, a new care pathway for eligible patients in remote and rural settings in Ontario includes treatment with oral NAC with the goal of expediting transfer. See QR code for more information.

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.

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 and give orally every 4 hours.

Repeat [APAP], AST, ALT, PT/INR every 12 hours while using NAC.

Once STOPPING RULE have been met, no further doses.

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