

# Formulary Post-Operative Nausea and Vomiting (PONV) Guidance

## PROPHYLAXIS

### Risk Score:

- Female Gender ☐
- Non-Smoker ☐
- Post-Operative Opioids ☐
- Previous history of PONV or Motion Sickness ☐

### Baseline risk can also be reduced by:

- Adequate IV Hydration
- Maintaining Normal BP
- Adequate Oxygenation
- Low Opioid Technique
- Effective Pain Management
- LA/Regional Technique
- TIVA
- Avoiding N<sub>2</sub>O

Low Risk (0-1)

Moderate Risk (2)

High Risk (3)

ONDANSETRON  
4mg IV

ONDANSETRON 4mg IV  
and DEXAMETHASONE 4mg IV

PONV  
in recovery?

Add  
DEXAMETHASONE  
4mg IV

Consider adding  
DROPERIDOL 1mg IV.

## TREATMENT

### If PONV score 2 or 3, give a combination of two anti-emetics simultaneously:

- Ondansetron 4mg IV (up to QDS) (if at least four hours following the prophylactic dose)
- Droperidol 0.625mg IV (up to TDS)
- \* Note that this may have been used for prophylaxis

### Treatment Failure:

- Exclude medical causes of PONV
- Consider Dexamethasone IV\* (every 24 hours)
- Cyclizine 50mg IV can be considered in recovery given the proximity to surgery
- Contact the Acute Pain Team or the on-call Anaesthetist