

Sedation withdrawal guidelines

- Consider analgesia requirements – regular paracetamol may be helpful
- Continue to use 'Sedation Withdrawal Score Chart' for 48 hours after last dose given, or until discharge home
- Check for history of clonidine administration: if previously given, restart at last dose (not initial dose) prescribed
- Most patients should be managed on a combination of oral morphine solution and clonidine, but additional doses of chloral hydrate can be considered
- If patient scores 6 or higher on withdrawal chart, please contact SORT (02380 775502) for advice
- If symptoms are mild, start with clonidine; if more severe, give clonidine and oral morphine

DRUG	DOSE	WEANING
<p>ORAL MORPHINE</p> <p>10 mg/ 5 ml ORAL solution</p> <p>2000 mcg/ml</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No upper dose limit • If not on PO morphine, start at 40mcg/kg 4 hourly • Can increase according to response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wean by 20% <u>of initial dose</u> daily • Weaning should be complete in 5 days but this might take longer if the weaning rate is reduced
<p>CLONIDINE</p> <p>10 mcg/ml ORAL solution</p> <p>25/100 mcg tablets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 1-5mcg/kg 8 hourly PO • If not on PO clonidine start at 3 mcg/kg, monitor BP and only increase if withdrawal symptoms persist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If total duration of use < 2 weeks clonidine does NOT need weaning • Continue until opiates weaned and then stop • If total duration of use > 2 weeks , wean by 1mcg/kg/dose/day
<p>CHLORAL HYDRATE</p> <p>500 mg/ 5 ml ORAL solution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose 25mg/kg 6 hourly • Maximum 1g per dose • Maximum daily dose 100mg/kg/day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients will not be discharged on regular chloral hydrate so weaning should not be necessary

- Please ensure you are familiar with the contraindications and side effects of these drugs
- Please seek advice from PICU if necessary

References:

1. Evelina paediatric formulary-Electron version July 2015 (<http://cms.ubqo.com/public/d2595446-ce3c-47ff-9dcc-63167d9f4b80>)
2. BNF for Children April 2018 (<https://bnfc.nice.org.uk/>)