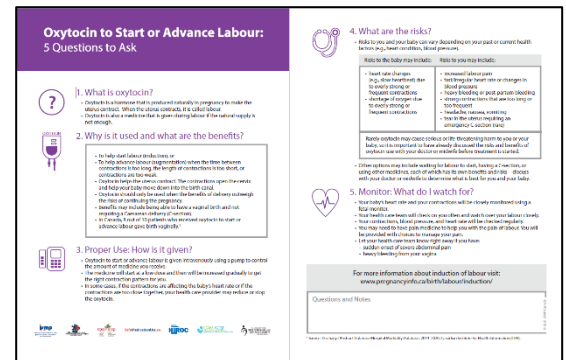


Oxytocin to Start or Advance Labour: 5 Questions to Ask

Why is this needed?

Oxytocin is a high-alert medication. Its use to start or advance labour has been identified as a high-risk area of practice.



This handout was developed by a pan-Canadian Advisory Group of patient/family advisors, clinicians, and other experts. It is designed to support health care providers when talking to patients about the use of oxytocin to start or advance labour.

“This patient handout could open the lines of communication between patients and doctors and empower parents and carers to feel in control of their birth story.” – Christie, Patient Advocate

Hear Christie’s Story: www.ismp-canada.org/audio/Oxytocin-Story.m4a

How does it work?

- The handout provides information about the benefits and risks of oxytocin when used to start or advance labour.
- The information has been designed with patients and providers to supplement the conversation between health care providers and patients/care partners about oxytocin.
- The information aims to increase the role of the patient as a partner in IV oxytocin safety.

Key Findings

- In a recent pan-Canadian survey of patients and health care providers (n=61), 100% of patients and over 70% of health care providers surveyed found this patient handout to be useful.

Learn more: www.ismp-canada.org/oxytocinsafety

Report medication errors to ISMP Canada: www.ismp-canada.org/err_index.htm

Funding for the initiative was provided through the Canadian Medication Safety Coalition which is co-chaired by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (Healthcare Excellence Canada) and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Canada.