



John Dempsey Hospital  
The University of Connecticut Health Center  
Department of Nursing  
NICU/NBN/SCN

## PHENOBARBITAL (Fee-noe-bar-bi-tal)

### **USE OF PHENOBARBITAL:**

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Phenobarbital is used to control seizures. Seizures are caused by abnormal electrical discharges from the brain. Phenobarbital depresses (lowers nervous activity) these abnormal electrical impulses.

Phenobarbital is a central nervous system depressant which means that brain activity is lowered and can be very dangerous if not used properly.

### **CALL THE DOCTOR IF:**

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1. Your baby develops a skin rash.
2. Your baby vomits two regularly scheduled doses in a row.
3. Your baby does not eat.
4. Your baby becomes very sleepy all the time and/or cannot be awakened.
5. Your baby's breathing pattern changes.
6. Your baby has a seizure (stiffening, jerking, or "rowing" movements of the arms and legs or arching of the back or unusual drooling or lip smacking or sucking or eyes rolling back in the head or jerking of the eyes).
7. Your baby has diarrhea or vomiting.

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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1. Review the 2 sections titled "**Safety**" and "**How to Use the Medicine**" in your **General Instructions for Giving Your Baby's Oral Medicine** hand out.
2. Do not increase the dose without a doctor's permission even if your baby has a seizure.
3. It is best to give this medicine on an empty stomach.