

FORMULARY

Lorazepam (Ativan)

Class of Drug	Benzodiazepine: antianxiety agent, anticonvulsant, antiemetic, sedative.
Mechanism of Action	Depresses all levels of the CNS, including the limbic and reticular formation, probably through the increased action of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which is a major inhibitory neurotransmitter in the brain.
Indications	Status epilepticus Anxiety Sedation
Contraindications	Known hypersensitivity, Severe hypotension, Acute narrow angle glaucoma
Adverse Effects	CNS depression. Respiratory: Decrease in respiratory rate, apnea, laryngospasm. Cardiac: Tachycardia, chest pain. >10% CNS: Drowsiness, ataxia, amnesia, slurred speech, paradoxical excitement, rage, headache, depression, anxiety, fatigue, lightheadedness, insomnia.
Precautions	Extreme care must be used in administering to elderly patients, very ill patients, and to patients with limited pulmonary reserve because of the possibility that hypoventilation/hypoxic cardiac arrest may occur.
Dosing/Administration	<u>Seizures:</u> Adults: 4 mg IV. May repeat in 10 minutes X 1. Children: 0.05-0.1 mg/kg IV. Do not exceed adult dose. May repeat X 1 in 10 minutes. <u>Anxiety:</u> 0.5-1 mg IV X 1. May repeat X 1 in 10 minutes <u>Sedation:</u> 0.02-0.06mg/kg every 2-6 hours
Pregnancy Category	Class D Unsafe – evidence of risk that may be justifiable in certain circumstances