

**CLASS: B**

**PROTOCOL USED IN: OB/GYN & Childbirth Emergencies**

**PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:**

- A. Hormone which increases electrical and contractile activity in uterine smooth muscle.
- B. Can initiate or enhance rhythmic contractions of the uterus.
- C. Exhibits rapid onset with a very short half-life, rapid inactivation and excretion.

**INDICATIONS:**

Control of postpartum hemorrhage (>1000 mL blood loss)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

**Rule out multiple fetuses before administration**

**SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:**

- A. Administration should follow delivery of placenta.
- B. In large doses, oxytocin exhibits a transient, but marked vasodilating effect and reflex tachycardia.
- C. Cardiac dysrhythmias may be precipitated or aggravated by oxytocin.
- D. Fundal massage and nursing can stimulate natural release of pitocin from mother's pituitary gland.

**ADULT DOSING:**

**10 USP units IM x 1.**

**PEDIATRIC: not recommended in pediatric patients.**