

This document is for **reference only**. Please refer to SWO's for specific indications, dosages, and applications

RX

**Drug Name:** Phenylephrine  
**Nickname:** Neo-Synephrine  
**Revised:** November 1, 2018  
**Class:**

Nasal decongestant  
Sympathomimetic amine

**Mechanism of Action:**

After intranasal administration, phenylephrine stimulates alpha-adrenergic receptors on the nasal mucosa (direct effect) causing vasoconstriction of local vessels. The vasoconstrictive action decreases mucosal edema, thereby leading to a decongestant effect.

**Indications:**

Facilitation of Nasal Intubation. Minimizes bleeding.  
Refractory or severe non-traumatic epistaxis

**Contraindications:**

Hypersensitivity to sympathomimetic amines

**Precautions:**

Recent facial, sinus, or brain surgery (<14 days)  
Presence of Acute Coronary Syndrome symptoms  
Ulcers, burns, and cancer to the face/sinuses/upper airway

Child < 5  
Geriatrics  
Diabetes  
CVD  
HTN

Increased ICP  
Hyperthyroidism  
Pregnancy (C)  
Glaucoma

**Dosage:**

**To facilitate nasal airway placement:**

**Adults:**

2-4 sprays to nasal mucosa (0.25%-1.0%)

**Pediatrics: (Age > 5)** -seldom used because of the difficulty and complication rate of nasal intubation in pediatrics)

1-2 sprays to nasal mucosa (0.25%)

**Treatment of epistaxis**

**Adults:**

1 spray each nare to nasal mucosa (0.25%-1.0%), followed by saturated gauze packing of the anterior nares

**Pediatrics: (Age > 5)**

1 spray each nare to nasal mucosa (0.25%-1.0%), followed by saturated gauze packing of the anterior nares

**Onset:**

Immediate

**Duration:**

30 minutes-4 hours

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**Side Effects:**

Irritation	Dryness
Sneezing	Anxiety
<i>Side effects below are secondary to IM/IV use:</i>	
Restlessness	Dizziness
Tremors	Headache

**Interactions:**

Few when used in the patient nasally (not well absorbed into systemic circulation)

**PEARLS:**

- More easily absorbed into systemic circulation by pediatrics
- To avoid the spread of infection, do not use the container for more than one person.
- Take the time to use this in the setting of nasal intubation; you'll reduce the incidence of uncontrollable hemorrhage significantly.
- Administration of Neo-Synephrine *for epistaxis* does not require EKG monitoring, although other symptoms and presentations may.

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