



Drug Therapy Protocols: Vasopressin (argipressin)

Policy code	DTP_VASO_0924
Date	September, 2024
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to vasopressin (argipressin) administration.
Scope	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
Source of funding	Internal – 100%
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Review date	September, 2026
Information security	UNCLASSIFIED – Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework.
URL	https://ambulance.qld.gov.au/clinical.html

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Vasopressin (argipressin)

September, 2024

Drug class

Antidiuretic

Pharmacology

Vasopressin mimics the effects of antidiuretic hormone (ADH) on the receptors of the renal tubule, permitting reabsorption of water (fluid reabsorption) and also has a potent vasopressive activity on vascular smooth muscle (vasoconstriction), both leading to increased arterial pressure.

Metabolism

Animal studies suggest that vasopressin is metabolised by serine proteases, carboxypeptidases, and disulphide oxidoreductases, primarily in the liver and kidneys.

Schedule

- S4 (Restricted drugs).

Special notes

- Only credentialed QAS Flight paramedics are authorised to carry medications from the designated LifeFlight medication formulary.
- LifeFlight is responsible for the procurement of all medications in the LifeFlight response kits.

Adult/Paediatric dosages

As per LifeFlight standard operating procedures (SOP)

ACFP

CCFP

May only be administered on the authority of a LifeFlight Retrieval Medical Officer whilst under direct supervision.

Indications

- As per LifeFlight standard operating procedure (SOP)

Contraindications

- Coronary artery disease