

**SYRUP OF IPECAC**  
(IP-eh-kak)

**PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION:**

-alkaloid emetic

**THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:**

-emetic

**MECHANISM OF ACTION:**

-directly irritates the GI mucosa

**INDICATIONS:**

-to induce vomiting in certain poisonings and overdoses

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- impaired LOC
- use with strong acids/alkalis, or petroleum distillates
- stupor, coma
- seizures
- intoxicated patients
- loss of gag reflex
- strychnine or iodides

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

- possibility of aspiration
- diarrhea
- CNS: drowsiness, depression
- CV: arrhythmias, bradycardia, hypotension, atrial fibrillation

**INTERACTIONS:**

- activated charcoal absorbs ipecac
- antiemetics or milk may decrease ipecac's therapeutic effect

**DOSAGE:**

-15 to 30 mL PO followed by 200-300 mL of warm water

**SPECIAL INFORMATION:**

- syrup of ipecac can be purchased without a prescription
- constantly monitor airway
- administer ipecac before activated charcoal
- ipecac usually empties the stomach completely within 30 minutes