

How to prescribe intravenous medicine infusions

On a medicines kardex and/or daily fluid balance & prescription sheet

1 Intermittent Infusions – this is the administration of an infusion over a set time period, either as a one-off dose or repeated at specific time intervals e.g. ciprofloxacin

Applicable to any medicine that is administered as an intermittent infusion, which may be:

- a pre-prepared infusion e.g. ciprofloxacin, metronidazole
- an infusion prepared in the clinical area either by further diluting a smaller volume e.g. clindamycin or by first reconstituting a dry powder and then further diluting e.g. vancomycin or clarithromycin

Documentation:

- prescribed on the kardex as shown below
- administration of dose recorded on kardex
- administration of infusion volume on the front page (fluid balance administration record) as shown below
- it is not necessary to prescribe on back page (fluid prescription)

Example: Ciprofloxacin (see below)

Medicine CIPROFLOXACIN			Start date 1/1/14	06 ⁰⁰
Dose 400mg	Route I.V.	Frequency B.O.	Stop date	10 ⁰⁰
Special instructions/Indication Administer over 60 minutes			Signature	12 ⁰⁰
Medicines Reconciliation (circle)			Supply	14 ⁰⁰
Pre-admission dose	Increased dose	Decreased dose	<input checked="" type="radio"/> New	18 ⁰⁰
Sign A. Duto	Prof. no. 111		Pharmacist	22 ⁰⁰
Print A. DOCTOR	Bleep 1234			

	FLUID INPUT (ml)										Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN
	ORAL FLUID		ENTERAL		INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*							
	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total		
08.00												
09.00												
10.00			ENTRAL									
11.00			40									
12.00			40									
13.00			40									
14.00			40									
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If feasible:

- Record all IV medicines (e.g. paracetamol, antibiotics) in the one column such as the one indicated

2. Continuous Infusions – this is the intravenous administration of a volume of fluid with medicines added over 24 hours or a number of hours to achieve a clinical endpoint. Large or small volumes may be delivered continuously e.g. amiodarone, heparin, dopamine

Documentation:

- prescribed on fluid balance prescription chart as shown below
- prescription referenced on the kardex as shown below (but do not include any dose details) e.g. 'Dopamine – see fluid prescription'
- administration documented on the front and back page of the 'daily fluid balance and prescription'

Medicine DOPAMINE - See Fluid Prescription		Start date 1/1/14	06 ⁰⁰
Dose	Route	Frequency	Stop date 10 ⁰⁰
Special instructions/Indication			Signature 12 ⁰⁰
Medicines Reconciliation (circle)			Supply 14 ⁰⁰
Pre-admission dose	Increased dose	Decreased dose	18 ⁰⁰
Sign A. Doctor	Prof. no. 1111	<input checked="" type="radio"/> New	Pharmacist 22 ⁰⁰
Print A. DOCTOR	Bleep 1234		

Indications - all that apply	Date	Time	Volume	Fluid Bolus volume, Deficit, On-going loss volume, Maintenance, Drug Prescription	Additives *	Rate ml/hour Range	Prescriber's Signature
P	1/1/14	0900	250ml	Sodium chloride 0.9%	DOPAMINE 400mg	20ml/hr	A. Doctor

FLUID INPUT (ml)													
ORAL FLUID				INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*									
ORAL		ENTERAL		Fluid Type		Fluid Type		Fluid Type		Fluid Type		Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN
Amount	Total	Amount	Total	Amount	Total	Amount	Total	Amount	Total	Amount	Total		
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3. Prescriptions for electrolyte replacement / treatment e.g. magnesium, phosphate, potassium

Applicable to electrolyte replacement or treatment

Documentation:

- prescribed on fluid balance prescription chart as shown below
- referenced on the kardex as shown below e.g. 'Magnesium – see fluid prescription'
- administration documented on the front and back page of the 'daily fluid balance and prescription'

Medicine			Start date	06 ⁰⁰
MAGNESIUM - See Fluid prescription			1/1/14	
Dose	Route	Frequency	Stop date	10 ⁰⁰
Special instructions/Indication			Signature	12 ⁰⁰
Medicines Reconciliation (circle)			Supply	14 ⁰⁰
Pre-admission dose	Increased dose	Decreased dose	New	18 ⁰⁰
Sign A. Durr	Prof. no. 1111		Pharmacist	22 ⁰⁰
Print A. DOCTOR	Bleep 1234			

Indications - all that apply	Fluid	Bolus volume	Deficit	On-going loss volume	Maintenance	Drug Prescription	* Medicines must be rec
Date	Time	Volume	Infusion Fluid/Type	Additives *	Rate ml/hour Range	Prescriber's Signature	
P	1/1/14	0900	100ml	Sodium Chloride 0.9% ① ②	MAGNESIUM 2g (8mmol)	100ml/hr	A. Durr

FLUID INPUT (ml)														
	ORAL FLUID				INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*						Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN		
	ORAL		ENTERAL		Fluid Type		Fluid Type		Fluid Type				Amount	Total
	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount				
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4. IV fluid infusions to replace fluids e.g. sodium chloride 0.9%, Hartmann's solution, glucose 5%

Applicable to intravenous fluid replacement.

Documentation:

- prescribed on the fluid balance prescription
- administration on the front page (fluid balance administration record)
- It is not necessary to prescribe or reference on medicine kardex

Indications - all that apply: Fluid Bolus volume, Deficit, On-going loss volume, Maintenance, Drug Prescription * Medicines must be recorded

↓	Date	Time	Volume	Infusion Fluid/Type	Additives *	Rate ml/hour Range	Prescriber's Signature
M	11/1/14	0900	1000ml	(a) Sodium Chloride 0.9% (b)		83 ml/hr	A. Decker

FLUID INPUT (ml)														
	ORAL FLUID				INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*								Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN
	ORAL		ENTERAL		Fluid Type		Fluid Type		Fluid Type		Fluid Type			
	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount		
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09.00					(a) Sodium Chloride 0.9%									
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5. What fluid volumes need to be recorded?

All 'significant' fluid volumes must be recorded in the 'fluid intake' section of the daily fluid balance chart. What constitutes 'significant':

- Adults – record any volume equal to or greater than 50ml
- Adults – those on a strict fluid management regime – record all volumes (unless local ward / unit protocol advises otherwise)
- Children up to 16th birthday - record all volumes (unless local ward / unit protocol advises otherwise)

6. Summary

	Prescribe on Kardex	Prescribe on fluid balance prescription	Reference fluid balance prescription on Kardex	Record Administration on Kardex	Record Fluid balance
Bolus injections	✓			✓	*
Intermittent infusions	✓			✓	✓
Continuous infusions		✓	✓		✓
Electrolyte replacement/treatment		✓	✓		✓
Fluid replacement		✓			✓

- * for adults where volume is equal or greater than 50ml or patient is on a strict fluid management regime or small children