

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)

Injectable antimicrobial medication				Patient Name: A. Patient	
Check allergies/medicine sensitivities and patient identity				H&C Number: 123456789	
				DOB: 01 / 01 / 70	
Year: 2018	Day and month: →		%/6		
Circle times or enter variable dose / time					
Medicine: Check allergy CIPROFLOXACIN	Start date: 8/6/18	06 ⁰⁰			
Dose: 400mg	Route: IV	Frequency: BD	Stop date: 10 ⁰⁰	DC	
Special instructions: Administer over 60 minutes	Signature: 12 ⁰⁰			MS	
What infection are you treating? Prostatitis	Supply: 14 ⁰⁰				
Cultures sent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Remember blood culture	Pharmacist: 18 ⁰⁰				
Sign: A. Doctor Prof. no. 1111	Pharmacist: 22 ⁰⁰			EM	
Print: A. DOCTOR Bleep: 1234				JS	

		ENTERAL FLUID				INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*								Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN
		ORAL		by TUBE		No. 1 Site		No. 2 Site		No. 3 Site		No. 4 Site			
		Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total	Fluid Type	Total		
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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	Pharmacist	18 ⁰⁰
		New		22 ⁰⁰
Sign	A. Doctor	Prof. no.	1111	
Print	A. DOCTOR	Bleep	1234	

Indications - all that apply:		Fluid B olus volume, D eficit, Q n-going loss volume, M aintenance, Drug P rescription					*Medicines must be recorded in
↓	Date	Time	Volume	Infusion Fluid/Type	Additives*	Rate ml/hr Range	Prescriber's Signature
P	1/1/14	09:00	250ml	Sodium Chloride 0.9%	DOPAMINE 400mg	20ml/hr	A. Doctor
				(b)			

FLUID INPUT (ml)													
ENTERAL FLUID				INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*									
ORAL		by TUBE		No. 1 Site		No. 2 Site		No. 3 Site		No. 4 Site		Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN
Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount		
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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 MAGNESIUM – see fluid prescription			Start date 1/1/14	06⁰⁰
Dose	Route	Frequency	Stop date	10⁰⁰
Special instructions/Indication			Signature	12⁰⁰
Medicines Reconciliation (circle)			Supply	14⁰⁰
Pre-admission dose	Increased dose	Decreased dose	New	18⁰⁰
Sign A. Doctor	Prof. no. 1111		Pharmacist	22⁰⁰
Print A. DOCTOR	Bleep 1234			

Indications - all that apply:		Fluid Bolus volume, Deficit, On-going loss volume, Maintenance, Drug Prescription					*Medicines must be recorded in
↓	Date	Time	Volume	Infusion Fluid/Type	Additives*	Rate ml/hr Range	Prescriber's Signature
P	1/1/14	09:00	100ml	Ⓐ Sodium Chloride 0.9%	MAGNESIUM 2g (8mmol)	100ml/h	A. Doctor
				Ⓑ			

FLUID INPUT (ml)														
	ENTERAL FLUID				INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*									
	ORAL		by TUBE		No. 1 Site		No. 2 Site		No. 3 Site		No. 4 Site		Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN
	Fluid Type	Amount	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 in
↓	Date	Time	Volume	Infusion Fluid/Type	Additives*	Rate ml/hr Range	Prescriber's Signature	
	M	1/1/14	09:00	100ml	(a) Sodium Chloride 0.9%		83ml/hr	A. Doctor
				(b)				

FLUID INPUT (ml)																		
ENTERAL FLUID					INTRAVENOUS FLUID & MEDICINES*													
					*Include volume of infused medicines										Hourly Amount IN	Grand Total IN		
ORAL		by TUBE			No. 1 Site		No. 2 Site		No. 3 Site		No. 4 Site		Fluid Type	Fluid Type			Fluid Type	Fluid Type
Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Total	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount	Fluid Type	Amount						
					(a) Sodium Chloride 0.9%													
					83													
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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