

DRUG INFUSION PRESCRIBING

1) PRESCRIBE ON THE KARDEX

- **Once when infusion is started;**
 - Drug name as it appears on the reference chart / monograph
 - Sign & date
 - Dose = 'as per infusion chart'
 - Vertical double sided arrow through administration times
 - No other details
- **Discontinue when infusion is stopped**
 - date and initial

2) Prescribe on the ITU chart

- USE THE DRUG INFUSION REFERENCE CHART / DRUG MONOGRAPH
- 2 categories;
 - 1) Variable concentration and fixed rate
 - 2) Standard concentration variable rate
- Same process for each drug within each category;

VARIABLE CONCENTRATION:

- a) Drug name**
 - As it appears on the reference chart / monograph
 - State single / double / quadruple strength if required
- b) Concentration**
 - Calculated using patient weight as per chart / monograph 'Prescription' section
 - Units as per reference chart / monograph

Example: Single strength Midazolam for a 2.5kg baby

Single strength Midazolam = 6mg/kg in 50ml : $6 \times 2.5 = 15\text{mg in } 50\text{ml}$

- c) Diluent**
 - 5% glucose unless incompatible / high blood sugars
 - All infusions made up to 50ml
 - Compatibility info on reference chart / monograph
- d) Time**
 - When writing Rx or when you want dose to change
- e) Dose**
 - as per ward round decision
 - units as per reference chart / monograph
- f) Rate (ml/hr)**
 - extrapolate from example on reference chart
 - round to 2 decimal places
- g) Sign & print name**

STANDARD CONCENTRATION:

- a) **Drug name** - As it appears on the reference chart / monograph
- b) **Concentration** - As it appears on the reference chart / 'Prescription' section of monograph

*Example: Vancomycin = **125mg in 30ml***

- c) **Diluent** - Fluid type & volume as per reference chart / monograph
- Compatibility info on reference chart / monograph
- d) **Time** - When writing Rx or when you want dose to change
- e) **Dose** - as per ward round decision
- units as per reference chart / monograph
- f) **Rate (ml/hr)** - Calculated using patient weight and information on reference chart / 'prescription' section of monograph
- round to 2 decimal places where necessary

*Example: Vancomycin for a 1.25kg baby at a dose of 30mg/kg/day
Rate for 30mg/kg/day = $0.3 \times \text{weight}$: $0.3 \times 1.25 = \mathbf{0.38ml/hr}$*

- g) **Sign & print name** -

DO

- Use the reference chart / monograph to prescribe
- Use the infusion pump display as a double check only
- Be aware of different units for different drugs
- Get an independent double check on complex calculations
- Understand what you are prescribing & why

DON'T

- Copy previous day prescription
- Copy what is on the infusion pump display
- Copy labels
- Prescribe what the nurse tell you to

Double Strength Infusions

- Reduces infusion volumes to optimise nutrition from PN
- Double the concentration & half the rate to give same dose;

MORPHINE	CONCENTRATION	DOSE	RATE
SINGLE STRENGTH	1mg/kg in 50ml	10micrograms/kg/hr	0.5ml/hr
DOUBLE STRENGTH	2mg/kg in 50ml	10micrograms/kg/hr	0.25ml/hr

- 'Single Strength' 'Double strength' OR 'Quadruple Strength' must be written next to the drug name on the ITU prescription chart but NOT on kardex, where these options are available.