

## Clonidine

<b>Indication</b>	<p>To reduce withdrawal symptoms in opiate or alcohol withdrawal without delirium.</p> <p>For agitation that is difficult to manage by conventional methods.</p>
<b>Dose</b>	<p>1-2 micrograms/kg/hour based on actual body weight.</p> <p>The infusion rate should be reviewed regularly titrating to the minimal effective dose. The need for a continuous IV infusion should be reviewed in all patients every 24 - 48 hours.</p>
<b>Preparation</b>	<p>Clonidine ampoules contain 150micrograms per ml.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up 5ml (750microgram) of clonidine in a 50ml syringe using a filter needle</li> <li>• Dilute to 50ml using sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%</li> </ul> <p>In fluid restricted patients (via a central venous access device)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up 10ml (1,500micrograms) of clonidine in 50mL syringe using a filter needle</li> <li>• Dilute to 50ml using sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%</li> </ul>
<b>Administration</b>	<p>Clonidine is given by continuous infusion via a peripheral or central line</p>
<b>Shelf-life</b>	<p>Shelf-life 24 hours at room temperature</p>
<b>Common Compatibility Issues</b>	<p>Clonidine should have a dedicated lumen</p>
<b>Additional information</b>	<p>Clonidine should be withdrawn gradually to prevent rebound hypertension</p> <p>Side effects include bradycardia and hypotension and constipation. These are particularly associated with high doses or prolonged therapy (&gt;7-10 days). May also cause small increase in BM.</p> <p>In moderate to severe renal impairment clonidine may accumulate slowly due to a long half life. The dose should therefore be reviewed at regular intervals.</p> <p>Enteral dose for opiate withdrawal is 50-100 micrograms TDS</p>

Sample Label	DRUGS ADDED TO THIS INFUSION			
	PATIENT <i>A. Patient (A. Number)</i>			WARD <i>ICU</i>
	DRUG <i>Clonidine in 50ml sodium chloride 0.9%</i>	AMOUNT <i>750microgram (15mcg/ml)</i>	ADD BY	CHECKED BY
	DATE ADDED TIME ADDED	EXP. DATE EXP. TIME	BATCH No.	
	DISCONTINUE IF CLOUDINESS OR PRECIPITATE DEVELOPS			

For review August 2026

### Clonidine Dose Checker

(Only for use with 15microgram/ml Infusions)

All rates are in ml per hour.

Actual body weight (kg)	Dose of clonidine in microgram per kg per hour	
	Increasing sedation →	
	All rates below in ml per hour (Only valid for 15microgram/ml solutions)	
	1	2
40	2.66	5.32
45	3.00	6.00
50	3.33	6.67
55	3.67	7.33
60	4.00	8.00
65	4.33	8.67
70	4.67	9.33
75	5.00	10.00
80	5.33	10.67
85	5.67	11.33
90	6.00	12.00
95	6.33	12.67
100	6.67	13.33
105	7.00	14.00
110	7.33	14.67

## Documentation Controls

Development of Guideline:	Pharmacist – Critical Care & Theatres
Consultation with:	Pharmacy Department
Approved By:	ICU Sister's Meeting June 2023  ICU Risk & Quality Meeting: August 2023  Surgical Division
Review Date:	August 2026
Key contact:	Pharmacist – Critical Care & Theatres

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\*\*\* End of Monograph \*\*\*