

Digoxin

Indication	Supra-ventricular arrhythmias (especially AF)																				
Dose	<p>Loading doses range from 250-500micrograms followed by 250-500micrograms SIX hours after the first infusion.</p> <p>Maintenance doses range from 62.5 micrograms – 250micrograms DAILY.</p>																				
Preparation	<p>Digoxin vials contain 500microgram/2ml</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw up the required amount of digoxin using a filter needle 2. Add the digoxin to a 100ml sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5% bag 																				
Administration	Infuse over 30 minutes via a peripheral or central line																				
Shelf-life	24 hours at room temperature																				
Common Compatibility Issues	Digoxin is considered compatible with insulin, linezolid and midazolam at concentrations usually used on ICU. Check ICU compatibility chart for more information.																				
Additional information	<p>Digoxin is primarily excreted via the kidneys so the maintenance dose needs to be reduced in patients with renal impairment.</p> <p>Low potassium levels pre-dispose the patient to digoxin toxicity therefore potassium supplements should be given for patients with potassium <4mmol/L.</p> <p>Digoxin can take 7-14 days to reach steady-state concentrations therefore levels taken before this can be misleading.</p> <p>Digoxin levels should be taken at least 6 hours after the dose is given. Range = 0.8-2 micrograms/L.</p> <p>Many drugs can alter digoxin levels. Drugs e.g. amiodarone and verapamil may increase digoxin levels and phenytoin may reduce digoxin levels.</p>																				
Sample Label	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" style="background-color: yellow;">DRUGS ADDED TO THIS INFUSION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3"> PATIENT <i>A. Patient (A. Number)</i> </td> <td> WARD ICU </td> </tr> <tr> <td> DRUG <i>Digoxin in 100ml sodium chloride 0.9%</i> </td> <td> AMOUNT <i>...mg (...mg/ml)</i> </td> <td> ADD BY </td> <td> CHECKED BY </td> </tr> <tr> <td> DATE ADDED TIME ADDED </td> <td> EXP. DATE EXP. TIME </td> <td colspan="2"> BATCH No. </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;"> DISCONTINUE IF CLOUDINESS OR PRECIPITATE DEVELOPS </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DRUGS ADDED TO THIS INFUSION				PATIENT <i>A. Patient (A. Number)</i>			WARD ICU	DRUG <i>Digoxin in 100ml sodium chloride 0.9%</i>	AMOUNT <i>...mg (...mg/ml)</i>	ADD BY	CHECKED BY	DATE ADDED TIME ADDED	EXP. DATE EXP. TIME	BATCH No.		DISCONTINUE IF CLOUDINESS OR PRECIPITATE DEVELOPS			
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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:	March 2026
Key contact:	Pharmacist – Critical Care & Theatres

References

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<https://www.medicinescomplete.com/#/content/hid/a582063?hspl=Digoxin> Accessed September 2018.
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***** End of Monograph *****