

Potassium Chloride (Derby ONLY)

Indication	<p>Potassium < 4.0mmol/L on either arterial blood gas sample or a sample sent to biochemistry</p> <p>Metabolic alkalosis</p>
Dose	<p>Routine replacement 20mmols over 2hours or 40mmol over 4hours. Recheck U&E after infusion. Usual maximum safe total daily dose of potassium (IV or oral) is 3mmol/kg.</p> <p>Metabolic Alkalosis 0 – 10mmol/hour to keep the potassium between 4 - 5 mmol/L. Requires 8hourly levels from the lab.</p>
Preparation	<p>Each vial of potassium chloride 15% contains 20mmol/10ml (2mmols per ml.)</p> <p>Neat Infusion (Central Line Only) 1. Draw up the required volume into a 50ml syringe</p>
Administration	<p>Given by infusion via a central line only. Potassium rate (across all infusions) should not exceed 20mmol per hour.</p>
Shelf-life	24 hours at room temperature
Common Compatibility Issues	Potassium chloride should be infused via a dedicated lumen for the duration of the infusion
Additional information	<p>There are ready made bags of varying concentrations of potassium available from pharmacy, if the patient requires peripheral potassium replacement.</p> <p>Potassium levels should be between 3.5-5.5mmol/L but unit practice is to keep them above 4mmol/L. Both IV and oral potassium supplements can be given together.</p> <p>If the patient's potassium is still low after IV or oral supplementation, check magnesium (Mg) levels.</p>

Sample Label	DRUGS ADDED TO THIS INFUSION			
	PATIENT A. Patient (A. Number)			WARD ICU
	DRUG Potassium Chloride (Neat)	AMOUNT ...mmol (2mmol/ml)	ADD BY	CHECKED BY
	DATE ADDED TIME ADDED	EXP. DATE EXP. TIME	BATCH No.	
	DISCONTINUE IF CLOUDINESS OR PRECIPITATE DEVELOPS			

Documentation Controls

Development of Guideline:	Pharmacist – Critical Care & Theatres
Consultation with:	Pharmacy Department, Critical Care Nursing & Medical teams
Approved By:	Adult Drug Monograph Process Written/Reviewed by Munthar Miah December 2023 Checked By: James Hooley, Medication Safety Pharmacist December 2023
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Key contact:	Pharmacist – Critical Care & Theatres

References

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