STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR RECONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF INTRAVENOUS DRUGS

AIM

- To ensure the appropriate reconstitution and administration of intravenous drugs.

KEY POINTS

- Guidelines for the preparation and administration of commonly used parenteral medications are available through the Pharmacy Guidelines (parenteral drug dilution guidelines).

- Solutions for intravenous infusion prepared in the ward areas MUST be used within 24 hours or as per hospital guidelines.

- Ensure strict asepsis with all sterile ports, medication and cannulae.

- Ensure all components of an IV system are compatible to minimise possible leaks and breaks in the system.

- Correct and clear labelling of infusion containers should be performed after making an addition as per Operational Directive 0385/12 and KEMH Clinical Guidelines Section Labelling of Injectable Medicines and Fluids.

- Any unused reconstituted vials must be discarded immediately after use.

- Penicillins once diluted, must be used IMMEDIATELY and not stored.

- Simultaneous administration of drugs via the same intravenous fluid is not recommended. Separate injections by clearing the line with 5-10mL 0.9% Sodium Chloride injection before and after each administration.

- Minibags are to be used by means of a Y piece tubing in close proximity to the infusion site, only if the content of the minibag is compatible with the infusion fluid.

- Staff shall only add ONE drug to an approved IV fluid, or Heparin solution.

- Intravenous line flush – where possible those patients receiving IV antibiotics should have an indwelling IV cannula that is flushed with 5-10 mL 0.9% Sodium Chloride injection as necessary. See clinical guideline Sodium Chloride 0.9% Flush of a Cannula.

- Additives may NOT be added to
  - Blood
  - Blood Products
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)
- Intralipids
- Dextrans

For further information on administration and compatibilities contact the Pharmacy department ext 2727.

REFERENCES / STANDARDS

National Standards – 4 Medication Safety
Legislation -
Related Policies -
Other related documents –

RESPONSIBILITY
Policy Sponsor
Initial Endorsement
Last Reviewed
Last Amended
Review date

CHIEF PHARMACIST KEMH
February 2001
September 2014

September 2017