7 ADMINISTRATION OF BLOOD COMPONENTS

7.6 Calculating a Blood Transfusion Rate

**GUIDE:**

- 1 drop = 1 minim
- 20 minims = 1 ml
- 1 ml = 20 drops

Formula to determine the time required for infusion of blood to be completed

\[
\text{Prescribed volume calculated in millilitres} \times \frac{\text{Prescribed minims per millilitre}}{60 \text{ (minutes in 1 hour)}}
\]

\[
\text{e.g. 400ml at 40 drops per minute}
\]

Calculated

\[
\frac{400 \times 20}{40 \times 60} \Rightarrow \frac{10 \times 1}{3}
\]

\[
= \frac{10}{3}
\]

\[
= (3 \frac{1}{3} \text{rd hours})
\]

\[
= 3 \text{ hours 20 minutes}
\]

DNAMER, KEMH Medication paper for registered nurses and midwives June 2005