**DRUG:** POTASSIUM CHLORIDE

**PRESENTATION:**
- Ampoule: Potassium chloride 0.75 g/10mL
- Contains: 1mmol of Potassium per 1mL
- Oral Solution: 20mmol/15mL (1mmol/0.75mL)

**ACTION & INDICATION:**
Electrolyte supplement for treatment of hypokalaemia (<3.5mmol/mL)

**DOSE:**
- IV: 2-4mmol/kg/24 hours
- Oral: 2-4mmol/kg/24 hours in 3 divided doses

**PREPARATION:**
- IV: Infusion:
  - Withdraw 2mL/kg (2mmol/kg) of potassium chloride
  - Dilute to 25mL with appropriate diluent
- Compatible fluids: 5% glucose, 10% glucose, sodium chloride 0.9%

**ADMINISTRATION:**
- IV: Infusion
  - Run the infusion at the rate of 1mL per hour (0.08mmol/kg/hour)
  - Maximum infusion rate: 0.2mmol/kg/hour
- Oral:
  - Give after feeds.
  - Dilute before administration with milk or water.

**ADVERSE EFFECTS:**
- Rapid infusion may cause sudden cardiac arrest.
- Always give as diluted infusion
- Hyperkalaemia - monitor serum potassium levels 6 hourly during infusion.
- Hypotension
- Cardiac dysrhythmias - monitor ECG
- Oral dosage - GI disturbances and vomiting

**COMMENTS:**
- Correct slowly over 24-48 hours.
- Avoid bolus infusions and extravasation.
- Give via central line if available. If giving through UVC make sure the tip of the UVC is not in the heart or the liver.

**REFERENCES:**
- Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13th Ed Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne

**DATE:** October 2013