

Potassium Chloride (Derby ONLY)

<p>Indication</p>	<p>Potassium <4.0mmol/L on either arterial blood gas sample or a sample sent to biochemistry.</p> <p>Metabolic alkalosis</p>
<p>Dose</p>	<p>Routine replacement 40mmol over 2 hours. Recheck U&E after infusion. <u>Only ICU is permitted to run 20mmol of Potassium per hour.</u> 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>
<p>Preparation</p>	<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>
<p>Administration</p>	<p>Given by infusion via a central line only. Potassium rate (across all infusions) should not exceed 20mmol per hour.</p>
<p>Shelf-life</p>	<p>24 hours at room temperature</p>
<p>Common Compatibility Issues</p>	<p>Potassium chloride should be infused via a dedicated lumen for the duration of the infusion</p>
<p>Additional information</p>	<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
Review Date:	December 2026
Key contact:	Pharmacist – Critical Care & Theatres

References

BMA & Pharmaceutical Press. British National Formulary September 2023.
<https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/bnf/current/index.htm> Accessed December 2023.
 Summary of Product Characteristics. <http://www.emc.medicines.org.uk>. Accessed December 2018
 Trissel, L.A. Handbook on Injectable Medicines 18th Edition.
<https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/hid/current/index.htm> Accessed December 2023.
 Brayfield A (ed), Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference. [online] London: Pharmaceutical Press <<http://www.medicinescomplete.com/>> (accessed December 2023).
 UKCPA. Minimum Infusion Volumes for Fluid Restricted Critically Ill Patients. 4th Edition (December 2012).

***** End of Monograph *****