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Introduction

Introduction to 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition (1998)

This document was produced, in 1996, in response to the demands of members of the Critical Care Group. It represents the experience of ICU pharmacists working in the UK. The aim was to provide practical advice for pharmacists managing difficult fluid restricted patients where the manufacturers’ guidelines are not practical. Because of the nature of the information, this document was at first distributed only to members of the UKCPA Critical Care Group. Since then it has become a widely used information source in UK hospital pharmacies. It is, as far as I am aware, the only document of its type in existence.

The majority of the information on minimum volumes cannot be supported except by the anecdotal experiences of the contributing pharmacists. To the best of our knowledge, these dilutions have been used in the UK without any apparent adverse effects but in most cases no published data exists to confirm safety. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in these guidelines is correct, but no liability can be accepted for any inaccuracies or misstatements of fact contained herein. Please use the guidance with these comments in mind, and only apply the minimum volumes where the clinical situation makes it necessary.

I hope that you will find the document useful, and that you will also feedback any experiences or new information to the group so that the document can be kept up to date, and accurate.

Many Thanks.

John P Dade
Senior Pharmacist ICU
St James’s University Hospital, Leeds

Introduction to 3\textsuperscript{rd} edition (2006)

It has been 10 years since the first edition, and while there have been a number of changes, I have been surprised at how few there were. I cannot improve on John’s comments above, except to add my thanks: to John for producing the first document which many of us have and continue to rely on, to Catherine and David for their help in putting it together, and to Mark Borthwick for giving it the smart facelift and in the process adding missing information. I also add my thanks to John’s to all those people who put forward suggestions and ideas.

Emma Graham-Clarke
Trust Consultant Pharmacist
City Hospital NHS Trust, Birmingham
Introduction to 4th edition (2012)

Another 6 years has passed, and again the changes are minimal – a few additions, a few deletions. My thanks go to Brit, Helen, Jane, Nicola and Ruth for their work in reviewing the monographs, and to Mark for formatting skills. A document like this depends on input from those that use it, and I extend my thanks to those who have given suggestions and advice – please continue to supply it!

Emma Graham-Clarke
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Acknowledgments

The following pharmacists have all been involved in the production of this document since its inception in 1996:-

Simon Badcott of Middlesex Hospital, London
Mark Borthwick of John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
Nicki Bush of Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield
Brit Cadman of Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
Deborah Corner of Glasgow Royal Infirmary
Rachel Cox of St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London
Gillian Craig of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
John Dade of St James’s University Hospital, Leeds
Diane Evans of John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
Ruth Forrest of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Pam Garnett of Scarborough & North East Yorkshire NHS Trust
Carolyn Gates of Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, London
Kate Gee of Southmead Hospital, Bristol
Patricia Ging of Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin
Emma Graham-Clarke of City Hospital, Birmingham
Cathy Goddard of Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
David Homer of Peterborough District Hospital
Jane Hylands of Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Elizabeth Kay of The General Infirmary, Leeds
Elizabeth Leach of Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham
Helen McHale of Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth
Cathy McKenzie of Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital, London
Jane Nicholls of Royal Brompton Hospital, London
Jean Rogers of Royal Liverpool University Hospital
Nicola Rudall of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Nishil Shah of Charing Cross Hospital, London
Alison Smith of Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Birmingham
Meera Thacker of Royal Free Hospital, London
David Thornton of Hope Hospital, Salford
Catherine Tucker of The Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
Infusion Information

Acetylcysteine

Data Sheet Recommendations
150mg/kg in 200ml over 15 minutes, then 50mg/kg in 500ml over 4 hours, then 100mg/kg in 1 litre over 16 hours.
Diluent: Glucose 5% or Sodium chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Range of dilutions in 100-250ml Glucose 5%. Some centres use undiluted infusions 200mg/ml (10g in 50ml).

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Use Central Line for strong solutions although some centres will give strong solutions peripherally.
Unlicensed indications include: Acute liver failure, ARDS, pancreatitis.
BNF recommends Glucose as preferable diluent.

Aciclovir

Data Sheet Recommendations
25mg/ml over 1 hour by controlled rate infusion.
(Note: SPCs don’t specify central line)
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Sodium chloride and glucose or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
If administering by infusion bag then 5mg/ml infused over at least 1 hour.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Aciclovir Injection pH 10.5.
Has been given neat.
Ensure the patient is well hydrated.

Addiphos

Data Sheet Recommendations
As part of a parenteral nutrition regimen, maximum concentration 30ml Addiphos in 500ml of compatible fluid.

Suggested Minimum Dilution
100ml of infusion fluid.
Diluent: Glucose 5% to 50%, Vamin 9, Vamin 9 Glucose, Vamin 14, Vamin 14 electrolyte free, Vamin 18 electrolyte free

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal
Note – contains 30mmol/20ml Potassium – concentrated solutions (eg in less than 1 litre) should be given centrally
Adrenaline (Epinephrine)

_data sheet recommendations_
No specific recommendation - the only licensed route of administration is IM. Usually 5mg in 50ml (1 in 10,000)
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5%

_suggested minimum dilutions_
Undiluted infusions have been used up to 5mg in 10ml

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Central Line Only.
Concentrated solutions are used when patient requires high doses of adrenaline.

Alfentanil

_data sheet recommendations_
0.5mg/ml to 5mg/ml.
Diluent: Glucose 5%, Sodium chloride 0.9% or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

_suggested minimum dilutions_
5mg/ml

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
For ventilated patients only. Caution with using concentrated solution undiluted (5mg/ml) as rate of infusion maybe less than 1ml per hour and accuracy of syringe pump maybe relevant

Alprostadil

_data sheet recommendations_
Does not specify dilution
UCL guide 3rd edition specifies dose (30mcg per kg) diluted to 10ml with glucose
Diluent: Glucose 5% or Sodium chloride 0.9%.
Add directly to the infusion solution avoiding contact between undiluted Alprostadil and the walls of the infusion container.

Aminophylline

_data sheet recommendations_
25mg per ml maybe injected undiluted (route not specified) peripheral or central
No dilution specified
Solutions stable over pH range of 3.5 to 8.6 for concentrations not exceeding 40mg per ml (it should be noted ampoule contains 250mg in 10ml, 25mg per ml)
Diluent: Glucose 5%, Sodium chloride 0.9% or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

_suggested minimum dilutions_
Variety of dilutions from 2mg/ml to 25mg/ml (undiluted).

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Ideally give via central line
Amiodarone

Data Sheet Recommendations
From 150mg in 250ml of glucose 5% (0.6mg/ml) up to 1.2g in 500ml of glucose 5% (2.4mg/ml).
Concentrations of less than 0.6mg/ml are unstable
Diluent: Glucose 5%

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Many centres infuse daily dose (up to 900mg) in a total volume of 48-50ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal
Central line only.

Amikacin

Data Sheet Recommendations
250mg per ml injected undiluted
500mg diluted in 200ml to give a 2.5mg per ml solution
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5% or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Required dose to be diluted up to 50ml total volume.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Over 30 minutes.

Amphotericin (Fungizone)

Data Sheet Recommendations
Not exceeding 0.1mg/ml over 2-4 hours.
Diluent: Glucose 5% (pH >4.2, check with manufacturer of glucose infusion, or adjust using a phosphate buffer as outlined in SPC).
Recommended concentration for infusion is 10mg in 100ml

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
PERIPHERAL: Up to 0.2mg/ml.
CENTRAL: Up to 0.5mg/ml.
Some centres dilute daily dose in 100ml Glucose 5%, others have diluted dose with 10 x volume of fluid (unlicensed use)

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal data for concentrations over 0.2mg/ml.
Concentrations up to 1.4mg/ml stable in Glucose 5% (Trissel).

Amphotericin (Lipid Complex)

Data Sheet Recommendations
Usual 1mg/ml, though 2mg/ml may be used.
2.5mg/kg/hr following test dose.
Diluent: Glucose 5%

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Do not exceed 2mg/ml.
**Amphotericin (Liposomal)**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 0.2-2mg/ml over 30-60 mins.
- Diluent: Glucose 5%

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Do not exceed 2mg/ml although some centres have used 4mg/ml via central line (anecdotal)

**Anidulafungin**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Dilute to concentration of 0.77mg/ml (as per SPC) and give at a rate not exceeding 1.1mg/minute
- Diluent: Sodium Chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- There is no current literature to support more concentrated solutions

**Aprotinin**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Undiluted, 5-10ml/min.

**Atracurium**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Bolus: Undiluted.
- Continuous Infusion: Dilute to 0.5-5mg/ml.
- Diluent: Glucose 5%, Sodium chloride 0.9%, Sodium Chloride 0.18% + Glucose 4% or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Use undiluted via central line.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal
- pH 3.2-3.7

**Azathioprine**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 10mg/ml via a fast flowing drip (over at least 1 minute) or neat (but follow with 750ml of sodium chloride 0.9% or sodium chloride 0.18% / glucose 5%.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Sodium chloride and glucose.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Some centres dilute to 100ml with Sodium Chloride 0.9% or Dextrose 5% and infuse over 1 hour. One centre has used 50mg in 20ml given via central line

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.
- Diluted pH 8-9.5, undiluted pH 10-12.
Calcium Chloride

Data Sheet Recommendations
Intermittent infusion: undiluted.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Undiluted (i.e. 10mmol/10ml) for continuous and intermittent infusions. Concentrations and rates expressed in mmol of Ca++. 

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
CENTRAL LINE ONLY:
For intermittent infusions, rate of 0.35-0.9 mmol per minute (Trissel). Continuous Infusions, not greater than 20mmol/hour (AHFS).

Calcium Gluconate

Data Sheet Recommendations
10% solution slow injection or intravenous infusion.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Undiluted 10% solution.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
CENTRAL LINE ONLY:
For intermittent infusions, rate of 0.35-0.9 mmol per minute (Trissel). Continuous Infusions, not greater than 20mmol/hour (AHFS).

Caspofungin

Data Sheet recommendations
70mg in 250ml fluid
50mg in 250 ml fluid
Reduced Volume infusion
50mg in 100ml fluid
Diluent: Sodium Chloride 0.9%. Not stable in diluents which contain Glucose

Suggested minimum dilution
70mg & 50mg – some centres have used volumes ranging from 100ml – 140ml

Clarithromycin

Data Sheet Recommendations
2mg/ml into a large proximal vein over 60 minutes.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5% or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
500mg in 100ml fluid although one site has used in 50ml
If less than 500mg dose, add 10ml water to vial to give a concentration of 50mg/ml. Dilute each ml to 10ml
E.g. 100mg dose can be diluted to 20ml
Final Concentration should not exceed 5mg/ml

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Give via central line ( ref UCL handbook)
Infusion Rate not more than 500mg/hour.
Clindamycin

Data Sheet Recommendations
- Concentration not greater than 18mg/ml, rate less than 30mg/min.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%.

Comments
- Not more than 1200mg should be given in a 60-minute period (Trissel).

Clonazepam

Data Sheet Recommendations
- Up to 3mg in 250ml, rate 0.25-0.5mg/min.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
- 5-10mg diluted to 48ml sodium chloride 0.9% for 10hrs in polyethylene syringes (Trissel).

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
- Clonazepam can be adsorbed onto PVC. If using PVC in infusion system then infuse over less than 2 hours.

Clonidine

Data Sheet Recommendations
- Slow IV 150-300 microgram bolus 10-15 minutes.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
- 6-50 micrograms/ml infusion.
  - Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
- Anecdotal.
  - Central or peripheral
  - Usually 750mcg in 50ml is used although 1500mcg in 50ml has been used centrally.

Co-trimoxazole

Data Sheet Recommendations
- 480mg in 75ml over 60 minutes (GlaxoSmithKline UK).
  - Diluent: Glucose 5%.
- 1.92g in 125ml in less than 90 minutes (Mayne Pharma plc).
  - Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
- Undiluted injection given centrally over a 1.5-2 hour period or as a continuous infusion.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
- Anecdotal.
  - Co-trimoxazole infusions in glucose 5% become less stable with increasing concentration.
  - Dilutions are limited by infusion time, which needs to be at least 1 hour for high dose therapy.
Ciclosporin

Data Sheet Recommendations
0.5-2.5mg/ml over 2-6 hours.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
2.5mg/ml or required dose to 50ml, over 2-6 hours.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Unstable at concentrations exceeding 2.5mg/ml.

Diamorphine

Data Sheet Recommendations
No recommendations.
Diluent: Glucose 5% (preferred) or Sodium Chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
For continuous infusion 100mg/50ml is used but this can be exceeded.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Concentrations up to 25mg/ml stable for 24 hours (Trissel).

Digoxin

Data Sheet Recommendations
Undiluted, over at least 5 minutes.
If diluting, use a minimum of 4 fold dilution.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5% or Sodium chloride and glucose.

Dobutamine

Data Sheet Recommendations
1-5mg/ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Some centres use 10mg/ml infusion or even undiluted injection.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Give strong solutions via central line.

Dopamine

Data Sheet Recommendations
Up to 3.2mg/ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5% or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Most centres routinely use 4mg/ml solution. No info on stronger dilutions.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Strong solutions Central Line Only.
One hospital has used 400mg in 50ml via a central line.
Dopexamine

Data Sheet Recommendations
4mg/ml - central line only or 1mg/ml – large peripheral vein.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5%, Sodium chloride and glucose, or Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann’s).

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Up to 200mg in 50ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Centrally only.

Epoprostenol

Data Sheet Recommendations
Dilute with not more than 6 times volume of sodium chloride 0.9%, i.e. minimum dilution of 10 microgram /6ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Undiluted, i.e. 10 micrograms/ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Limited by practicality and shelf life. Many centres extend to 24 hours with no discernable loss of efficacy.

Erythromycin

Data Sheet Recommendations
Preferred method continuous infusion 1G in 500ml sodium chloride 0.9% (use within 8 hours)
1-5mg/ml over 20-60 minutes, i.e. 1g in 250ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Centres routinely use 1g/100ml via central lines.
Anecdotal reports of neat (1g/20ml) or 1g/40ml infusion over 30-60 mins.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Use central line only for concentrations >5mg/ml. If >10mg/ml monitor carefully. If catheter in ventricle can cause extension of Q-R interval (Abbott).

Esomeprazole

Data Sheet Recommendations
80mg in 100ml
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%

Fentanyl

Data Sheet Recommendations
50microg/ml (i.e. undiluted).
Diluent: If diluting can use Sodium chloride 0.9% of Glucose 5%. 
Furosemide

Data Sheet Recommendations
Undiluted.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Undiluted.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Max rate 4mg/min. In severe renal impairment max rate 2.5mg/min. Some brands contain ethyl alcohol at high concentrations.

Ganciclovir

Data Sheet Recommendations
Not greater than 10mg/ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
No experience of infusions of >10mg/ml (Roche).

Gentamicin

Data Sheet Recommendations
Undiluted bolus.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Undiluted bolus.

Comments
Note: when giving large doses of gentamicin i.e. once daily regimens most centres dilute in at least 50-100ml and infuse over 30-60 minutes, diluting with Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Glyceryl trinitrate

Data Sheet Recommendations
Dependant on Brand, 1mg/ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
50mg in 50ml.

Haloperidol

Data Sheet Recommendations
Unlicensed

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
INFUSION AS A LAST RESORT
0.75mg/ml in sodium chloride 0.9% (stable for 24 hours)
3mg/ml in glucose 5%
Hydralazine

Data Sheet Recommendations
Bolus: 2mg/ml, Infusion: 20mg/500ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
60mg in 60ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Central or peripheral.

Hydrocortisone

Data Sheet Recommendations
100mg in not less than 100ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
100mg in 50ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.

Imipenem & Cilastatin

Data Sheet Recommendations
500mg (imipenem) in 100ml over 20-30 mins.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%. In exceptional circumstances, if sodium chloride contraindicated, then glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
500mg/60ml (MSD).

Isoprenaline

Data Sheet Recommendations
None.
Diluent: Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
2 to 4mg in 50ml (central line only).

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.

Ketamine

Data Sheet Recommendations
1mg/ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
50mg/ml undiluted.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Labetalol

Data Sheet Recommendations
1mg/ml.
Diluent: Glucose 5% or Sodium chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Undiluted (central line only).

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.

Lidocaine (Lignocaine)

Data Sheet Recommendations
Usually 1-2mg/ml.
Diluent: Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
8mg-20mg/ml has been used.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Extravasation may cause tissue damage.

Liothyronine

Data Sheet Recommendations
Thyrotardin-Inject N - 100mcg in 50ml.
Goldshield - 20mcg/ml.
Diluent: Sodium Chloride 0.9%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
20mcg in 20ml – transplant donors
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal

Lorazepam

Data Sheet Recommendations
Can dilute 1:1. A common dilution for continuous infusion is 10mg/50ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Water for injections.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Undiluted.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Avoid injecting into small veins.
**Magnesium sulphate**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Peripheral Infusion not greater than 10% (i.e. 4mmol/10ml Mg).
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Centrally 25-50% (i.e. 1-2mmol/ml).

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Magnesium sulphate can be given by slow bolus for small doses (up to 8mmol) or as continuous infusion (up to 160mmol over 24 hours) (Trissel).

**Meropenem**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 500mg in 5ml or bolus 1g/20ml.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- 1g in 10ml.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.
- US – 1g in 5-20ml.

**MethyIthioninium Chloride (Methylene blue)**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Can dilute in 50ml with glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Undiluted.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.

**Methylprednisolone (sodium succinate)**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Dose in 50-100ml.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Undiluted infusions have been given.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.
- Smaller doses of methylprednisolone can be given by slow bolus injection. Larger doses are preferably given as an intermittent (1/2 hour) or continuous infusion.

**Micafungin**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 2mg/1ml.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- No information

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- No information
Midazolam

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Use undiluted infusion solution 10mg/5ml, centrally or peripherally.
- Diluent, if used: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

*Comments*
- Some centres have used 10mg/2ml injection undiluted as an infusion.

Milrinone

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 200micrograms/ml
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Sodium chloride 0.45% or Glucose 5%.

*Comments*
- SPC states other concentrations may be used dependant on patient’s fluid status

Morphine

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 1-2mg/ml by infusion, peripherally or centrally.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- 1-2mg/ml used normally. Stronger solutions probably OK, but unlikely to be needed.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.
- Higher concentrations are more likely to precipitate (Trissel).

Naloxone

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 2mg/500ml Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- 10mg/50ml Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%. Bolus is given undiluted.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.

Noradrenaline (Norepinephrine)

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Start at 40mg/litre and titrate according to response. Central line only.
- Diluent: Glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Start with 4mg/50ml and double concentration as required, up to 32mg/50ml. Undiluted injection has been used.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.
- Always give via a central line.
Octreotide acetate

Data Sheet Recommendations
Dilute to not less than 1vol: 1vol and not more than 1vol: 9vol. Diluted solution should be used within 8 hours of preparation.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Isotonic sodium chloride and glucose.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Has been used undiluted. More practical to adjust concentration according to rate of administration, i.e. 10-100ug/ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal

Omeprazole Infusion

Data Sheet Recommendations
40mg in 100ml over 20-30 mins.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
No data. Bolus administration not recommended by manufacturers. Stability with 80mg/100ml is 12 hours Sodium chloride 0.9% or 6 hours Glucose 5%.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Rate of infusion is the critical factor.

Oseltamivir

Data Sheet Recommendations
Unlicensed. Recommendation from company is 2mg/1ml.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
4mg/1ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions

Pantoprazole

Data Sheet Recommendations
Slow IV bolus or dilute with 100mls.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.
Parenteral Nutrition Vitamins

Data Sheet Recommendations
- Additrace: 10ml in 500-1000ml Glucose 5-50%.
- Cernevit: May give as undiluted bolus or dilute further.
- Decan: 40ml in 250ml Sodium chloride 0.9% or 500ml Glucose 5-70%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
- Vitlipid N: 10ml in 100ml Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5% (but may be given undiluted as slow bolus).
- Solivito N: 10ml in 50-100ml Glucose 5-60%.
- Additrace: 10ml in 100ml Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.
All three of the above may be combined in a 100ml infusion of Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.
- Cernevit: 5ml in 100ml Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.
- Decan (40ml) may be combined with Cernevit in a 100ml infusion of Glucose 5%.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
- Unlicensed information regarding vitlipid N, solivito N and additrace from Fresenius Kabi. Remaining vitamins/trace elements, anecdotal.

Phenylephrine

Data Sheet Recommendations
- 10mg to 500mls
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
- 20mg in 50ml or 50mg/50ml

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
- Anecdotal.

Phenytoin

Data Sheet Recommendations
- Undiluted followed by 50ml Sodium Chloride 0.9% flush. Rate not exceeding 50mg/min.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
- Use smaller flush volume, i.e. 10ml Sodium Chloride 0.9%.
- Intermittent infusion: dilute to not more than 10mg/ml in Sodium Chloride 0.9% and use within 1 hour.
- Use 0.2-0.5 microns in-line filter.
- Precipitation can occur.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
- Anecdotal.
- Do not use if infusion becomes cloudy.
Potassium canrenoate

*Data Sheet Recommendations* - *drug unlicensed in UK*

- **Bolus:** 200mg.
- **Infusion:** Dilute to 250mls.
- **Diluent:** Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*

- No information

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*

- No information

Potassium Chloride

*Data Sheet Recommendations*

- **Usual max:** 40mmol/L into peripheral line at a rate not exceeding 20mmol/hour.
- **Diluent:** Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5%, Sodium chloride and glucose, Compound sodium lactate solution (Hartmann’s).

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*

- Various dilutions used nationally, usually in fluid restricted patients. These range from 40mmol/100ml to undiluted (i.e. 2mmol/ml).
- The most common maximum concentration is 1mmol/ml.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*

- Anecdotal.
- Strong solutions, i.e. >80mmol/l should be given via a central line only. ECG cover is mandatory if very strong solutions are used.

Potassium Phosphate

*Data Sheet Recommendations*

- Concentration and rate is limited by potassium content. Usual max of 40mmol/L potassium is used via a peripheral line. Concentrations over 80mmol/L **must** be given via a central line.
- **Diluent:** Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5% or Sodium chloride and glucose.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*

- Various concentrations used: 20-40mmol/100ml potassium content, 1mmol/ml potassium content and undiluted.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*

- Anecdotal.
- BNF gives an infusion rate for phosphate of 18mmol over 24 hrs, but states that in critically ill patients the dose can be increased to 500mcg/kg (max 50mmol) over 6-12 hours.
- Some units however give 15mmol over 2 hours up to 3 times a day. Ref: Crit Care Med 1995; 23:1204.
- See Potassium Chloride for safety guidelines.
**Ranitidine**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 50mg in 20ml over at least 2 min.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Undiluted injection over at least 2 mins used in many centres.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.
- Rate of injection more important than dilution.

**Remifentanil**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 12.5mg in 50ml.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- Up to 20mg in 50ml has been used.

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.

**Rifampicin**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Rifadin: 600mg over 2-3 hours
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.
- No volume is given, but 100ml used in practice

**Rocuronium**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- Undiluted.

**Salbutamol Infusion**

*Data Sheet Recommendations*
- 5mg in 500ml.
- Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5% or Sodium chloride and glucose.

*Suggested Minimum Dilutions*
- 10mg in 50ml (datasheet recommendation for premature labour).

*Comments for Concentrated Solutions*
- Anecdotal.
- Centrally or peripherally.
Sodium Fusidate

Data Sheet Recommendations

Preparation being discontinued
500mg in 500ml, centrally over 2 hours or peripheral over 6 hours.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Centrally - 500mg in 100ml, peripherally - 500mg in 250ml.
Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Concentrated solutions must be given over at least 6 hours.

Sodium Glycerophosphate

Data Sheet Recommendations
10-20 mmol added to infusion solution or to the admixture for which compatibility has been proved
Diluent: Glucose 5%, Glucose 20%, Glucose 50%

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
20mmol in 50ml (centrally) or 100ml (peripherally).
Concentrated glucose solutions can only be administered centrally.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal

Sodium Nitroprusside

Data Sheet Recommendations
Available as special only – information from previous licensed product
50mg in 250-1000ml.
Diluent: Glucose 5%.

Suggested Minimum Dilutions
1mg/ml.

Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Central line only.

Sodium valproate

Data Sheet Recommendations
Bolus over 3-5 minutes.

Tacrolimus

Data Sheet Recommendations
5mg in 50ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.
Tazocin (Piperacillin with tazobactam)

Data Sheet Recommendations
4.5g in 20ml.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Water for injections.

Thiopental (Thiopentone)

Data Sheet Recommendations
500mg in 10ml water for injections.
Comments
Centrally, high pH leading to peripheral vein irritancy.

Vasopressin (Argipressin)

Data Sheet Recommendations
0.5 unit per ml
Diluent: Glucose 5%.
Suggested Minimum Dilutions
Some centres use 20 units in 50ml.
Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Centrally only.

Vancomycin

Data Sheet Recommendations
5-10mg/ml via central or peripheral line for bolus doses
1-2g in a ‘suitable’ volume for continuous infusion.
Diluent: Sodium chloride 0.9% or Glucose 5%.
Suggested Minimum Dilutions
10mg/ml is a commonly used dilution. 20mg/ml has been used in some centres.
Comments for Concentrated Solutions
Anecdotal.
Give concentrations >5mg/ml via a fast flowing vein. Can be given by continuous infusion.

Vecuronium

Data Sheet Recommendations
2mg/ml (Undiluted).