

Infusions – Overview of Infusion Types



Key messages:

- An Infusion is any medication or fluid that is delivered via an Alaris pump or a syringe driver.

Infusions are further broken down into three types:

1. Bag by Bag Infusions

- Bag by Bag infusions are ordered with a specific duration e.g., 1 bag. Once that number has been administered, nursing staff will complete the order and it will 'drop off' the MAR.
- The majority of Bag by Bag infusions have been pre-defined to have a duration of 1 bag (although this can be modified if required).
- One exception to this is the Potassium Chloride infusion orders in the DKA orderset, which have been pre-defined to have a duration of 5 bags, 10 bags etc.
- In Bag by Bag infusions, only the Rate will display on the MAR (i.e., not the Infuse Over time).

Example:

Medications	13/10/2020 06:00	13/10/2020 00:00	12/10/2020 18:00	12/10/2020 12:10	12/10/2020 12:00
Scheduled					
flucloxacillin (additive) Sodium Chloride 0.9% infusion 100 mL 2 g, IV Infusion, 6 hourly, Infuse over 30 min(s), Indications: Cellulitis, First dose 12/10/2020 12:00:00	2 g Not given within 5 days.	2 g Not given within 5 days.	2 g Not given within 5 days.		2 g Not given within 5 days.
flucloxacillin Sodium Chloride 0.9%					
Continuous Infusions					
novoRAPID (additive) 100 unit(s) Sodium Chloride 0.9% infusion 100 mL 100 mL, IV Infusion, Rate: TITRATE, First dose 12/10/2020 12:09:00, Titrating Plan: AS PER ORDER COMMENTS, Total volume (mL): 100 Titrate as per below BGL results: BGL: <5.0mmol/...				Pending Not given within 5 days.	
Administration Information insulin aspart Sodium Chloride 0.9%					
sodium chloride 0.9% infusion (BAG BY BAG) 1,000 mL 1,000 mL, IV Infusion, Rate: 125 mL/hr, 2 bag(s), First dose 12/10/2020 11:20:00, Stop date 13/10/2020 07:19:00, Total volume (mL): 1,000				Pending Not given within 5 days.	
Administration Information Sodium Chloride 0.9%					

2. Truly Continuous Infusions

- Truly continuous infusions have no duration or stop time. They stay active on the MAR until discontinued by the doctor.
- Nurses can continue to hang bags without the doctor having to order a new one.
- Some truly continuous infusions have a rate of “TITRATE”. This means nurses can titrate the rate of the infusion as per policy / as per order comments without the doctor having to modify the order.
- In Truly Continuous infusions, only the Rate will display on the MAR (i.e., not the Infuse Over time).

Examples:

Search: Advanced Options Type: Inpatient

Folder: Search within: All

dobutamine infusion 250 mg in Glucose 5% 42 mL CONTINUOUS (CRIT CARE)
 dobutamine infusion 250 mg in Glucose 5% 100 mL CONTINUOUS - CARDIAC (CRIT CARE)
 dobutamine infusion xx mg in Glucose 5% xx mL CONTINUOUS - PAED (CRIT CARE)

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sodium chloride 0.9% infusion (BAG BY BAG) 1,000 mL 1,000 mL, IV Infusion, Rate: 125 mL/hr, 2 bag(s), First dose 12/10/2020 11:20:00, Stop date 13/10/2020 07:19:00, Total volume (mL): 1,000 Administration Information Sodium Chloride 0.9%				Pending Not given within 5 days.	

3. Intermittent Infusions

- Intermittent infusions are those with a frequency
- All antimicrobials are now classified as intermittent infusions
- These will sit in the same section of the MAR as the patient’s other medications, even although the route of administration is “IV Infusion”.
- In Intermittent infusions, only the Infuse Over time will display on the MAR (i.e. not the Rate).

Examples:

Search: Advanced Options Type: Inpatient

Folder: Search within: All

cefTRIAXONE IV infusion 1 g in Sodium Chloride 0.9%, 24 hourly
 cefTRIAXONE IV infusion 2 g in Sodium Chloride 0.9%, 12 hourly
 cefTRIAXONE IV infusion 2 g in Sodium Chloride 0.9%, 24 hourly
 cefTRIAXONE IV infusion 50 mg/kg in Sodium Chloride 0.9%, 24 hourly - PAED

Medications	13/10/2020 06:00	13/10/2020 00:00	12/10/2020 18:00	12/10/2020 12:10	12/10/2020 12:00
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Continuous Infusions					
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