

Drug Infusion Maintenance(Adults) Protocol

revised October 2008



Preamble

Patients are routinely transported between facilities with an infusion device delivering a drug. In many cases these patients are stable but require a registered nurse (RN) escort because of the infusion device. Appropriately trained EMS personnel escorts can provide this function.

Requirements

1. Fully licensed Technician-Paramedic.
2. Certification in the intravenous cannulation protocol by the Medical Director.
3. Certification in the infusion pump protocol (adult) by the Medical Director.

Indications

1. Stable patients requiring drug infusion based on hospital treatment protocols.

Contraindications

1. Patient age less than 16 years
2. Infusion of agents not approved by this protocol.
3. Infusion of agents requiring titration or variable dosing schedules / regimens.
4. Infusion of agents by central venous access devices.

Drug Doses and Frequencies

Drugs dosages and infusion rates are to be determined by the referring physician. A written order signed by the physician for the infusion must be obtained.

Procedure

1. Perform patient assessment and record vital signs.
2. Assess that patient meets criteria for this protocol.
3. Ensure there are no contraindications to use of this protocol.
4. Follow the protocol for the maintenance of an infusion pump (adult).
5. Consider requesting that a second intravenous line be started, as a backup, at the referring facility.
6. Monitor and reassess patient en route.
7. Notify receiving facility of patient's condition and medication used.

Note:

- EMS personnel must be prepared to reestablish the intravenous line, if necessary.
- EMS personnel must monitor the patient for any signs of adverse effect of the infusion and be prepared to discontinue the infusion, if necessary.

Documentation Requirements

The following information must be documented on the patient care report form:

1. Patient's presenting signs and symptoms, including vital signs.
2. Indications for protocol use.
3. Order for infusion signed by referring physician.
4. Dosage and concentration of drug being delivered by infusion pump.

5. Patient assessment, including vital signs at regular intervals during transport. An acceptable interval is q20-30 minutes, unless required more frequently by referring physician.
6. Volume (and dosage if required) delivered during transport, and volume remaining in infusion pump.
7. Record of any alarms or error messages displayed by the infusion device during transport, with a description of corrective action to manage alarm or message.
8. Changes from baseline, if any, that occur during transport.
9. Signature and license number of EMS personnel performing any transfer of function skills.

Certification Requirements

1. Attend in-depth classes and lectures on drug infusion.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the pharmacology and mechanism of action of each agent permitted* for delivery by infusion using this protocol.
3. Pass a written examination.
4. Certification is by the Medical Director.

*as of January 2000, the following agents are permitted by this protocol for delivery by infusion:

- infusions containing electrolytes (potassium, magnesium, calcium)
- infusions containing heparin
- infusions containing antibiotics

Recertification Requirements

1. Review class and recertification is done every 12 months.
2. A record will be kept to document all cases where this protocol is used.

Decertification

1. Decertification is at the discretion of the Medical Director or the Provincial Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services, Manitoba Health & Healthy Living.

Quality Assurance Requirements

1. Appropriate quality assurance policies must be in place. The Medical Director or designate must review all instances where this protocol is used. As a minimum, the following must be assessed:
 - i) appropriateness of implementation
 - ii) adherence to protocol
 - iii) any deviation from the protocol
 - iv) corrective measures taken, if indicated

2. Yearly statistics for protocol use compiled and forwarded to Emergency Medical Services, Manitoba Health & Healthy Living.