

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO REDUCE THE INAPPROPRIATE USE OF CONCENTRATED ELECTROLYTE

1. Concentrated electrolyte solutions should be independently double checked before/during/after preparation and administration by a second trained and qualified practitioner.
2. The information required for double checking are:
 - Patient full name, civil ID number, as compared to patient prescription (cross-reference Patient identification policy)
 - Name of the concentrated electrolyte.
 - Protocol used for electrolyte replacement
 - Total dosage in mEq/hr.
 - Calculation of concentration.
 - Diluent used.
 - Total volume.
 - Labeling.
 - Infusion pump rate.
 - Route.
3. **DO NOT USE** abbreviations on the label and physician order for concentrated electrolytes.
4. Store the concentrated electrolytes in a locked cupboard (separate from other medications).
5. Prominent warning labels must be applied to the drug container stating the it is **(HIGH RISK MEDICATION, REQUIRES DOUBLE CHECKING)**
6. All concentrated electrolytes should be countersigned by a co-staff nurse to ensure independent double-checking was done.
7. Double checking must be done between the assigned staff nurse with his/her team leader or senior staff and shall be documented in the nurses note.