

**FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL  
PATIENT CARE SERVICES**



<b>TITLE: IV Potassium Guidelines</b>	<b>Policy No.: PCS-07-002</b>
<b>Purpose:</b> To establish the guidelines for the safe administration of IV Potassium.	<b>Developed Date:</b> 5/89 <b>Review Date:</b> 08/00, 6/03, 4/06, 2/09, 12/10, 7/13, 1/16, 10/18 <b>Revised Date:</b> 10/96 <b>Review Responsibility:</b> Executive VP Chief of Patient Services/CNO, Nursing Leadership, Director of Pharmacy, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Executive Staff, Executive Committee of the Medical Staff
<b>Reference Standards:</b> MM.05.01.11. MM.06.01.01	

**Policy:**

Orders for intravenous admixture solutions of Potassium will be monitored by the Department of Pharmacy for appropriateness of dose and rate of administration.

1. Maximum Concentration of a Potassium intravenous solution will be 60 mEq/1000ml.
2. Maximum Concentration for a small volume Potassium admixture will be 20 mEq/100ml to be infused over two (2) hours (or 10 mEq/hr.).
3. Maximum rate of administration for any Potassium admixture will be 0.2 mEq/kg./hr.
4. The only exceptions to this policy is if **ALL** of the following criteria are met :
  - ◆ Patient in ICU or Surgery
  - ◆ Patient on a Cardiac Monitor
  - ◆ Patient has a central line
  - ◆ Maximum concentration is 80 mEq/1000ml in large volume parenterals.
  - ◆ Rate of administration does not exceed 0.4 mEq/kg./hr.
  - ◆ Rate of small volume admixture does not exceed 20 mEq/hr.
  - ◆ Patient must be 13 years of age or older.
5. Small volume Potassium admixtures should not total greater than 50 mEq over a 4 hour period.
6. Maximum allowable rate of administration for each fluid will be included on the label.
  - ◆ Label will read: NOT TO EXCEED \_\_\_\_\_ml/hr.
  - ◆ To determine maximum rate, maximum dose must be individualized for each patient in mEq/kg./hr.

7. All intravenous admixtures containing Potassium must be regulated by IV pump.
8. A specific rate of infusion must be written on the order by the physician.
9. Potassium will not be added to intravenous solutions already hanging. Any order change will require a new fluid to be mixed in the Pharmacy.
10. All Potassium admixtures will be inverted several times in order to evenly disperse the Potassium in the diluent fluid after they are mixed.

***Approved by the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff: August 27, 2003.***