



OFFICE of the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY for HEALTH  
15, PALAZZO CASTELLANIA, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA

**DH CIRCULAR No. 39/2021**

DH 647/2021

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Attention All:** Consultants  
Medical Doctors  
Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Technicians  
Nurses

**Re: Premixed Potassium Chloride Infusion Bags**

As part of Government's ongoing plan to increase the availability of items on the Government Formulary List, it is being brought to your attention that the following Premixed Potassium Chloride Infusion Bags in different concentrations are being introduced for hospital use:

- Potassium Chloride 0.15% (20 mmol/L) and Sodium Chloride 0.9% in 1000mL IV infusion
- Potassium Chloride 0.3% (40 mmol/L) and Sodium Chloride 0.9% in 1000mL IV infusion
- Potassium Chloride 0.15% (20 mmol/L) and Dextrose 5% in 1000mL IV infusion
- Potassium Chloride 0.3% (40 mmol/L) and Dextrose 5% in 1000mL IV infusion

The introduction of Premixed Potassium Chloride Infusion Bags in various concentrations is a significant and positive approach towards increasing medication safety within the Government Health Services.

It is also being brought to your attention that the current Potassium Chloride 15% w/v in 10mL vials will continue to remain available on the Government Formulary List.

**Potassium Chloride in the concentrate format is considered a high-risk medicine and errors in the preparation and administration of intravenous potassium can be fatal.** Any hospital guidelines or protocols concerning the safe management of hypokalaemia and IV fluid prescribing should continue to be followed so to promote safe practices, avoid medication errors, and ensure patient safety.

The usage of Potassium Chloride Infusion Bags will be monitored in liaison with stakeholders.

For your attention please.

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