

## Who can administer

Administration RESTRICTED - see [Appendix 1](#)

## Important information

- **Central line administration:** administration by infusion **in specialist units only** - (critical care only)
- **Peripheral line administration (restricted use - Critical Care, Outreach ONLY)**
- Resuscitation use: any area
- Infusion route is an unlicensed method of administration
- For Y-site compatibility [see below](#)

## Available preparations

Adrenaline 1mg in 1mL ampoule (1:1000) (Mercury)

Adrenaline 1mg in 10mL pre-filled syringe (1:10,000) (Aurum)

Adrenaline 100 microgram in 1mL ampoule (Martindale)- for use in neonates

## Reconstitution

### Pre-filled syringe

- Already in solution

### Ampoule

- Already in solution
- **Dilute further prior to administration**
- Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle

## Infusion fluids

Glucose 5% (preferred <sup>(ref 3)</sup>) or Sodium chloride 0.9%

## Methods of intravenous administration

### Bolus intravenous injection

- Resuscitation: as per GUH guidelines
- Pre-filled syringes are used as supplied
- Ampoules are to be diluted before use

### Continuous intravenous infusion (using an electronically controlled infusion device)

- **Central line administration**
  - Prepare a solution containing either 3mg in 50mL, or 6mg in 50mL
  - A 3mg per 50mL solution contains 60 micrograms per mL
  - A 6mg per 50mL solution contains 120 micrograms per mL

- Administer at a suitable rate, titrated to response - see 'dose' below

- **Peripheral line administration**<sup>(ref 1)</sup> **(restricted use - Critical Care, Outreach ONLY)**

- Adrenaline 1mg in 1mL ampoule
- Prepare a solution containing 4mg in 250ml (16 micrograms per mL)
- Administer at a suitable rate, titrated to response - see 'dose' below

## Dose in adults

### Bolus intravenous injection: as per resuscitation guidelines

- Pre-filled syringes are used as supplied
- Ampoules are to be diluted before use

### Continuous intravenous infusion - CENTRAL LINE (Critical Care only)<sup>(ref 2)</sup>

- **Initial rate:** 1 microgram per minute, titrated to effect

### Continuous intravenous infusion - PERIPHERAL LINE (Restricted use - Critical Care, Outreach ONLY)

- **Anaphylaxis (refractory to IM adrenaline)**<sup>(ref 2,4)</sup>
  - **Initial rate** advised at 0.1microgram **per kilogram** per minute
  - Increase rate every two to three minutes by 0.05 mcg/**kg**/minute until BP and perfusion improve. (see table below for mL/hour volume rate for microgram/**kg**/minute dosing)
  - See Table 1 below and also Guideline for the use of vasopressor agents by peripheral infusion, UHG

**Table 1: Peripheral line (restricted use - Critical Care, Outreach ONLY)**  
**Indication: Anaphylaxis (refractory to IM adrenaline)**<sup>(ref 2,4)</sup>  
**Rate (mL/hour) for microgram/kg/min doses using 4mg/250mL infusion**

Dosage (microgram/kg/minute)	50kg patient	75kg patient	100kg patient
0.1microgram/ <b>kg</b> /minute	19 mL/hr	28 mL/hr	38 mL/hr
0.2microgram/ <b>kg</b> /minute	38 mL/hr	56 mL/hr	75 mL/hr
0.3microgram/ <b>kg</b> /minute	56 mL/hr	84 mL/hr	113 mL/hr
0.4microgram/ <b>kg</b> /minute	75 mL/hr	113 mL/hr	150 mL/hr
0.5microgram/ <b>kg</b> /minute	94 mL/hr	141 mL/hr	188 mL/hr

Doses rounded for convenience

- **Peripheral venous access**<sup>(ref 1)</sup>:
  - should ideally be of size 20G or more
  - be sited proximal to the wrist in the arm
  - avoid sites of flexion in awake patients
  - avoid sites requiring more than one venepuncture
  - there should be a return of blood following insertion and flush easily with 5-10mL of 0.9% sodium chloride

## Monitoring

- Monitor infusion site frequently - extravasation may cause local tissue necrosis

- Monitor blood pressure continuously
- Monitor blood glucose whilst on continuous infusion <sup>(ref 3)</sup>
- **Peripheral administration:** a staff member competent in the administration of peripheral vasopressor MUST supervise the patient

## Further information

- If PERIPHERAL line extravasation occurs, see Guideline for the use of vasopressor agents by peripheral intravenous infusion, UHG
- If CENTRAL line extravasation occurs, give phentolamine subcutaneously (into site of extravasation) 5 to 10mg in 10 to 20mL Sodium chloride 0.9% <sup>(ref 2)</sup>

## Storage

Store below 25°C

## References

Adrenaline 1: 1,000 (Mercury) SPC August 2018

Adrenaline 1:10,000 (Martindale)

1: Adult Critical Care Patients. Version 1.1 November 2022 (interim update)

Available from: Intensive Care Society | Vasopressor Agents in Adult ICU (ics.ac.uk) Accessed: 11th July 2023

2: UpToDate (Adrenaline)- accessed online 28th December 2023

3: Injectable medicines guide, Accessed via Medusa 28th December 2023

4: Guideline for the use of vasopressor agents by peripheral infusion, UHG, January 2024

## Therapeutic classification

Adrenergic agent/inotrope

### **BNF**

Hypotension and shock