

# Acetylcysteine (SNAP 12 hour regimen - PREFERRED in GUH) Intravenous Infusion for Adults

## Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife

## Important information

- **This information applies to ORAL paracetamol overdoses, for INTRAVENOUS paracetamol overdoses contact the** National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC)
- The SNAP regimen can also be used in cases of **non-paracetamol associated hepatotoxicity** (Unlicensed) <sup>(ref 2)</sup>
- **SNAP** (Scottish and Newcastle Acetylcysteine Protocol) (Also known as **Modified 12-hour regimen**)
  - SNAP (modified 12-hour regimen) is an off label use of acetylcysteine albeit at its licensed dose
  - This regimen is endorsed by National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine
  - This regimen is the preferred regimen for use in GUH for Adult patients (information on the 21 hour regimen may be found on [TOXBASE](#) if required)
  - **The total dose of intravenous acetylcysteine is the same as the standard 21-hour regimen (i.e. 300 mg/kg) but the rate and duration of treatment is different which results in a lower peak plasma acetylcysteine concentration and a significantly lower risk of anaphylactoid reactions** <sup>(ref 1)</sup>
- Anaphylactoid reactions may occur, particularly with initial loading dose. Patient should be carefully observed. Most anaphylactoid reactions can be managed by temporarily suspending the acetylcysteine infusion, administering appropriate supportive care and restarting at a lower infusion rate (e.g. administer the first bag over twice as long as usual.) The normal infusion rate can be used for subsequent bags <sup>(ref 1)</sup>
- A previous anaphylactoid reaction to acetylcysteine may not be a contraindication for use. Contact NPIC <sup>(ref 1)</sup>

## Available preparations

Parvolex 2g per 10ml ampoule

Acetylcysteine 2g per 10ml ampoule

## Reconstitution

Already in solution

**Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle**

**Dilute further prior to administration**

## Infusion fluids

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

# Methods of intravenous administration

## Intermittent intravenous infusion

- Prepare the infusion to the correct concentration- as indicated in tables below
- Administer over the time specified in the tables below

## Dose in adults

### Paracetamol poisoning

- See TOXBASE to determine the management of the patient depending on the number of hours since ingestion.
- If Acetylcysteine is indicated, follow the tables below

### Non-paracetamol associated hepatotoxicity

- The SNAP regimen can also be used for this indication (unlicensed)<sup>(ref 2)</sup>

### SNAP(Also known as **Modified 12-hour regimen**)

- Give 100mg/kg (max 11g) over two hours
- Followed by 200mg/kg (max 22g) over ten hours
- **Avoid delay when changing infusion bags**
- See tables below
- Continued treatment with Acetylcysteine may be necessary (after these two bags have been given over twelve hours total -see Toxbase for advice on the clinical assessment of the patient)
- If further infusions are required, repeat Infusion 2

**Table 1: SNAP (Also known as Modified 12-hour regimen)  
Acetylcysteine for Adults WEIGHING 40KG OR MORE  
Each ampoule contains 2g/10ml (200mg per ml)**

12 hour regimen	First infusion		Second infusion	
<b>Infusion fluid</b>	Add required dose to <b>200ml</b> infusion fluid (discard 50ml from 250ml bag)		Add required dose to 1000ml infusion fluid (no need to withdraw any volume)	
<b>Duration of infusion</b>	<b>2 hours</b>		<b>10 hours</b>	
<b>Drug dose</b>	<b>100mg/kg</b>		<b>200mg/kg</b>	
<b>Patient weight</b>	<b>Ampoule volume</b>	<b>Infusion rate</b>	<b>Ampoule volume</b>	<b>Infusion rate</b>
<b>kg</b>	<b>mL</b>	<b>mL/hour</b>	<b>mL</b>	<b>mL/hour</b>
<b>less than 40kg- see table 2 below</b>				
<b>40 to 49</b>	23	112	45	105
<b>50 to 59</b>	28	114	55	106
<b>60 to 69</b>	33	117	65	107
<b>70 to 79</b>	38	119	75	108
<b>80 to 89</b>	43	122	85	109
<b>90 to 99</b>	48	124	95	110
<b>100 to 109</b>	53	127	105	111
<b>110kg or more</b>	55	128	110	111

**Dose calculations are based on the weight in the middle of each band  
Figures have been rounded up to the nearest whole number**

**Table 2: SNAP (Also known as Modified 12-hour regimen)**

**Acetylcysteine for Adults WEIGHING LESS than 40KG**

**The volume of infusion fluid has been modified to take patient weight into account, as fluid overload is a potential danger**

**Each ampoule contains 2g/10ml (200mg per ml)**

12 hour regimen	First infusion		Second infusion			
Duration of infusion	2 hours		10 hours			
Drug dose	100mg/kg		200mg/kg			
Concentration of infusion	50mg/mL (prepare by diluting each 10ml ampoule with 30ml infusion fluid)		10mg/mL Prepare as per table below			
Patient weight	Total infusion volume	Infusion rate	Acetylcysteine injection solution (mL) to be added to infusion bag (volume of infusion bag in next column)	Infusion volume	Total volume after addition of drug solution	Infusion rate
kg	mL	mL/hour	mL			mL/hour
20 to 24	44	22	22	418 (remove 82mL from 500mL bag)	440	44
25 to 29	54	27	27	513(remove 487mL from 1000mL bag)	540	54
30 to 34	64	32	32	608 (remove 392mL from 1000mL bag)	640	64
35 to 39	74	37	37	703 (remove 297mL from 1000mL bag)	740	74
40kg or greater- use table 1 above						

**Example: patient weighs 37kg**

**First infusion:** administer 74mL of 50mg/mL drug infusion taken from an infusion of 80mL, prepared by adding 2x10ml ampoules to 60ml infusion fluid)

**Second infusion:** Add 37mL of injection solution 200mg/mL to 703ml infusion fluid (remove 297mL from a 1000mL infusion bag). This produces a total of 7.4g in 740mL. Infuse at 74mL per hour

**Dose calculations are based on the weight in the middle of each band  
Figures have been rounded up to the nearest whole number**

# Storage

Store below 25<sup>o</sup>C

Storage locations- [see antidote list](#)

Search Synonym: NAC

# References

SPC September 2019

- 1: Toxbase- accessed 11/02/2026
- 2: Email Communication with Prof L Egan, September 7th, 2023
3. Injectable drugs guide, downloaded from Medusa 13/05/2026