

Summary of Intravenous Potassium Administration Standards

Parameter	Potassium Acetate & Potassium Chloride		Potassium Phosphate	
	Adult	Pediatric**	Adult	Pediatric**
PERIPHERAL INFUSION				
Standard Concentration	≤0.11 mEq/mL	≤0.11 mEq/mL	≤0.08 mmol/mL (≤20 mmol/250 mL)	≤0.05 mmol/mL syringe; ≤0.13 mmol/mL IVPB
Maximum Single Dose	AC* = 40 mEq CC* = 60 mEq	1 mEq/kg up to 40 mEq	AC* = 30 mmol CC* = 40 mmol	0.36 mmol/kg up to 30 mmol
Usual Rate	10 mEq/hr	0.25 mEq/kg/hr up to 10 mEq/hr	5 mmol/hr	Infuse over 6 hours
Maximum Rate	15 mEq/hr	0.5 mEq/kg/hr, up to 20 mEq/hr	7 mmol/hr	0.06 mmol/kg/hour up to 7 mmol/hour
Maximum Rate in Critical Hypokalemia	20 mEq/hr per LIP order	1 mEq/kg/hr up to 40 mEq/hr per LIP order	Should not be used for critical hypokalemia	Should not be used for critical hypokalemia
Cardiac Monitoring Required	Critical hypokalemia; rates > 15 mEq/hr	Critical hypokalemia; rates > 0.5 mEq/kg/hr or 10 mEq/hr	Critical hypokalemia; Rates > 10 mmol/hr	Critical hypokalemia; rates > 6 mmol/hr
CENTRAL INFUSION				
Standard Concentration	≤0.4 mEq/mL	≤0.4 mEq/mL	≤0.2 mmol/mL (≤20 mmol/100 mL)	≤0.12 mmol/mL syringe; ≤0.27 mmol/mL IVPB
Maximum Single Dose	AC* = 40 mEq CC* = 60 mEq	1 mEq/kg up to 40 mEq	AC* = 30 mmol CC* = 40 mmol	0.36 mmol/kg up to 30 mmol
Usual Rate	10 or 20 mEq/hr	0.25 mEq/kg/hr up to 10 mEq/hr	5 mmol/hr	Infuse over 6 hours
Maximum Rate	20 mEq/hr WITH EKG monitoring; 15 mEq/hr without EKG monitoring	0.5 mEq/kg/hr, up to 20 mEq/hr	15 mmol/hr	0.06 mmol/kg/hour up to 7 mmol/hour
Maximum Rate in Critical Hypokalemia	40 mEq/hr per LIP order	1 mEq/kg/hr up to 40 mEq/hr per LIP order	Should not be used for critical hypokalemia	Should not be used for critical hypokalemia
Cardiac Monitoring Required	Critical hypokalemia; rates > 15 mEq/hr	Critical hypokalemia; rates > 0.5 mEq/kg/hr or 10 mEq/hr	Critical hypokalemia; Rates > 10 mmol/hr	Critical hypokalemia; rates > 6 mmol/hr

*AC = acute care, *CC = Critical Care; **Including NICU and PICU

If potassium is being delivered via multiple sources at the same time, the total potassium infusion rate from all sources will not exceed the maximums outlined above. The infusion rates of the individual mixtures should be adjusted to assure total maximum recommended infusion rates are not exceeded.