

**Critical Care Guidelines
FOR CRITICAL CARE USE ONLY**



NORADRENALINE (NOREPINEPHRINE)

PRESENTATION:		1mg/ml injection: 4ml or 8ml ampoules of noradrenaline base.	
Update April 2020: New Pfizer product		Norepinephrine bitartrate 1mg/ml: 4ml vial equivalent to 4ml noradrenaline base.	
INDICATION:		Naturally occurring catecholamine primarily used for vasoconstriction. It has some inotropic effects in many cases.	
DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:		ICU STANDARD INTRAVENOUS INFUSION The infusion prepared depends on the dose and infusion rate. Consult table below.	
Strength	Noradrenaline (mg)	Glucose 5% (ml)	Comments
Single Strength Final concentration 80 micrograms/ml	8mg 20mg 40mg	100ml 250ml 500ml	Remove volume of glucose 5% from bag equivalent to volume of noradrenaline (norepinephrine) which is to be added. Use 4ml ampoules to prepare infusions annotated in bold. Use 8ml ampoules for other infusions.
Double strength Final concentration 160 micrograms/ml	40mg 80mg	250ml 500ml	
Quadruple strength Final concentration 320 micrograms/ml	80mg 160mg	250ml 500ml	
One 4ml ampoule of noradrenaline costs £1.20, an 8ml ampoule costs £3.48			
	Initially 2mls/hour (0.04 micrograms/kg/min) of single strength titrated to required level. Infuse through a central venous catheter.		
CONCENTRATION:	Single strength 80micrograms/ml Double strength 160micrograms/ml Quadruple strength 320micrograms/ml		
STABILITY:	Physically & chemically stable for 24 hours at room temp. Protect from light.		
ADDITIONAL NOTES:	Also stable for 24 hours in 0.9% sodium chloride but more stable in glucose 5%. Norepinephrine Pfizer brand is ONLY stable in glucose 5%. Do not use any infusion if discoloured or has a precipitate.		
Allergy Status	Norepinephrine Pfizer brand contains sodium metabisulphite as a preservative. Sulphite sensitivity seen more frequently in asthmatic population.		

References

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