## Critical Care Guidelines FOR USE IN CRITICAL CARE ONLY



## **DEXMEDETOMIDINE**

PRESENTATION:	Vials containing <b>1000micrograms</b> in 10ml, 400micrograms in 4ml (100micrograms/ml of dexmedetomidine).
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INDICATION:	<ul> <li>Dexmedetomidine should not be used in patients who require deep sedation (e.g. Traumatic Brain Injury, Severe Acute Respiratory Failure)</li> <li>It should be considered in the following situations:         <ul> <li>Patients with severe acute agitation and/or delirium who are exceptionally challenging to manage, on more than two sedative agents.</li> <li>Patients who remain delirious and/or agitated despite a short trial of continuous intravenous clonidine.</li> <li>Patients with delirium and/or agitation where dexmedetomidine might facilitate extubation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Review ongoing requirement for dexmedetomidine after 48-72 hours of treatment and consider commencing oral antipsychotic agents e.g.quetiapine if appropriate.</li> </ul>
DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:	ICU STANDARD INTRAVENOUS INFUSION- 8 micrograms/ml
	Remove 20ml from a 250ml infusion bag of glucose 5% or sodium chloride 0.9%. Add 2000micrograms (20ml) to the infusion bag.
PDF A	Initially, 0.7micrograms/kg/hr (e.g. 6.1mls/hr for a 70kg patient) titrated to required level. Dose range 0.2-1.4micrograms/kg/hr using patient's <u>actual</u> body weight.
Dexdor dosing card 8mcg.pdf	<ul> <li>A lower starting rate should be considered for frail patients</li> <li>A loading dose is NOT recommended and is associated with increased adverse events.</li> </ul>
	The dose should be increased in increments of 0.1microgram/kg/hr. Leave at least 30 minutes between each
	dose increase.  • Do not bolus.
	The infusion can be stopped abruptly but slow weaning may be
	required to avoid symptoms of withdrawal occurring (e.g. agitation/hypertension).
	Please refer to company dosing chart.
CONCENTRATION:	8 micrograms/ml
STABILITY:	Physically and chemically stable for 24 hours at room temperature.

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## References:

- 1. Dexmedetomidine. Summary of Product Characteristics.Martindale Pharma.www.medicines.org.uk. Accessed 14/06/22. Last updated 28/04/2022.
- 2. NHS Injectable Medicines Guide (Medusa). (2020). *Dexmedetomidine*. Available:https://medusa.wales.nhs.uk/IVGuideDisplayNewFormat.asp. Last accessed 03/06/22.
- 3. Written communication from Medical Information, Orion Pharma. 21/05/2019.
- 4. Shehabi Y, Howe B. D, Bellomo R et al. Early Sedation with Dexmedetomidine in Critically ill Patients. NEJM, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Title: DEXMEDETOMIDINE		
ID:	Authors: Niall Alexander, Claire Hannah	
Category:	Document Version; 4	
Status Draft/Final: Final	Review Date: July 2024	
Authoriser; Lothian Critical Care QIT	Date Authorisation: July 2022	
Editorial Group		
Date added to intranet		
Key Words		
Comments;		

