


Shared Learning  Belfast Health and Social Care Trust		Ref: BHSCT/SAI/14/140	Incident Date: 14/09/14
Directorate Unscheduled & Acute Care			
Service Area - Medicine			
Summary of Event			
<p>The patient was prescribed a dose of 225mg IV and as no 50ml vials of IV Paracetamol were available on the ward, the 100ml bottle was used. The pump volume should have been set to 22.5ml but was mistakenly set to 225ml. The patient was therefore incorrectly given 950 mg of Paracetamol. There was no second check undertaken which contravenes the BHSCT Medicines Code.</p> <p>Patient A's condition was monitored closely and whilst she did not suffer any serious harm as a result of this incident it was felt beneficial to review the case from a learning perspective.</p>			
Learning Points			
<p>As per Trust Policy, 'Guidelines for the administration of intravenous (IV) Paracetamol', the following procedure must be undertaken by a qualified nurse or doctor and checked by another nurse or doctor immediately prior to administration-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose the appropriate vial (50 or 100ml) depending on the patient's body weight – • Calculate the volume of IV Paracetamol solution which contains the correctly prescribed dose according to the patient's body weight • After hand washing discard the residual volume from the vial or prefilled syringe before administration <p>The syringe driver or volumetric pump must be programmed to deliver the correct dose of IV Paracetamol over a minimum of 15 minutes by a qualified nurse or doctor who is deemed competent to use the device. The pump programme setting must be checked by another nurse or doctor before the infusion is connected to the patient Pump or Syringe Driver.</p>			
Learning applicable to: All Ward Areas			
Specific Directorate(s)		Trust wide	X
Other - CD Forum		Regional	
Action taken (for use in implementing directorate)			
<p>1-Training-Further training on IV paracetamol and the BHSCT policy has since been given to staff nurses on the ward.</p> <p>2-Guidance- documentation on 'dosing in extremes of body weight' has been circulated to medical and nursing staff and is now available in the ward drug room.</p> <p>3-Ordering from Pharmacy-Staff have been instructed on the need to order the 50ml vials of IV paracetamol if a low weight adult (less than 33 kg) is admitted to the ward</p> <p>4-Nursing staff to highlight low weight at the front of the kardex.</p>			
Date: 28/05/15	Signed: SAI Group	Designation:	

