

NOTICE

FROM NOW ONWARDS

9/5/02

All Surgical Children(including orthopaedics) are to have N/saline 0.45% with Dextrose 2.5%

All post operative children on IV fluids are to have Electrolytes carried out 12hrs post surgery, and every 24hrs following this until IV fluids are discontinued



POST OP IV FLUIDS FOR CHILDREN



Due to the small risk of hyponatraemic encephalopathy, certain principles need to be adhered to when prescribing IV fluids for children perioperatively.

1. Fluid prescriptions must be based on a current (ie within 6 hours) electrolyte profile. It is the sole responsibility of the prescriber to either arrange for this to be done or if necessary send a sample themselves.
2. IV fluid prescriptions are applicable for 12 hours only. Thereafter they must be based on a repeated electrolyte profile.
3. Most children's requirements are met by using the default solution (0.45% saline with 2.5% Glucose). However, children whose serum sodium is 135mmol/L or less should have Hartmann's solution prescribed for them.
4. When prescribing IV maintenance fluids for post operative children, please use the new PINK form, available in Ward 6, ICU and theatres.
5. If you need to prescribe anything other than routine maintenance fluids (eg blood products etc), you should use the YELLOW form, available in Ward 6, ICU and theatres.
6. If you are in *any* doubt, ASK a senior colleague before prescribing.