

## Phenytoin

<b>Form:</b>	250mg in 5ml vial								
<b>Reconstitution:</b>	Already in solution								
<b>Administration Method:</b>	<p><b><u>IV Infusion (Loading Dose &amp; Maintenance Dose)</u></b> Dilute required dose in sodium chloride 0.9% to a maximum of 10mg/ml.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Required Dose</th> <th>Volume of Infusion Fluid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Less than 500mg</td> <td>50ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500mg – 1000mg (loading doses)</td> <td>100ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greater than 1000mg (loading doses)</td> <td>250ml</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Administer at a rate not exceeding 50mg per minute, e.g. 1g can be given over 20 minutes. Stability of the diluted solution is limited and precipitates may form. The infusion must be prepared immediately before use and infused within one hour using an <u>in-line filter</u> (0.22micron).</p> <p><b><u>IV Injection (Maintenance doses)</u></b> Phenytoin should be injected slowly into a large vein through a large gauge needle, at a rate not exceeding 50mg per minute.</p>	Required Dose	Volume of Infusion Fluid	Less than 500mg	50ml	500mg – 1000mg (loading doses)	100ml	Greater than 1000mg (loading doses)	250ml
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<b>Extravasation:</b>	May cause tissue damage. Flush pre and post each dose with sodium chloride 0.9% to prevent phlebitis.								
<b>Compatibility &amp; Stability:</b>	Sodium Chloride 0.9% ONLY								
<b>Special Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous monitoring of ECG and blood pressure is essential. The patient should be observed for signs of respiratory depression. Monitor for signs of cardiovascular collapse and CNS depression.</li> <li>• Phenytoin is often administered as a loading dose (based on weight) followed by a smaller maintenance dose. Double check the correct dose has been prescribed.</li> <li>• Hypotension usually occurs with rapid IV administration of phenytoin.</li> <li>• There are numerous drug interactions – check BNF.</li> <li>• Phenytoin has a narrow therapeutic window; the usual total plasma-phenytoin concentration for optimum response is 10-20mg/L (or 40-80 micromol/L).</li> </ul>								

**Information provided relates to Epanutin® manufactured by Pfizer.**

*This information has been summarised to act as a guide for those administering IV medication. The monograph should be used in conjunction with the drug data sheet and BNF for information on dose, adverse effects, cautions and contra-indications. Further information is available from Pharmacy on 22146 or 22542*