

Calcitonin

Form	Calcitonin 100 IU/ml solution for injection and infusion	Store in fridge at 2–8°C
Reconstitution	Already in solution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use gloves when opening ampoules • Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle 	
Compatibility & Stability	Sodium chloride 0.9%	
Administration	SC (preferred) or IM	
	Allow to reach room temperature before intramuscular or subcutaneous use Administer undiluted	
	IV infusion Severe/emergency cases of hypercalcaemia of malignancy only Dilute dose in 500mL compatible fluid. Give over at least 6 hours using an infusion pump after previous rehydration. Glass or hard plastic containers should not be used.	
Monitoring	Frequent monitoring of the clinical and laboratory response to treatment, including measurement of serum calcium, is recommended especially in the early phases of treatment. Acute reactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and vomiting • Hypersensitivity • Hypertension • Dizziness • Headache • Altered taste • Musculoskeletal pain including arthralgia • Fatigue • Facial or upper body flushing. Because calcitonin is a peptide, the possibility of systemic allergic reactions exists and allergic-type reactions including isolated cases of anaphylactic shock have been reported in patients receiving calcitonin. Such reactions should be differentiated from generalised or local flushing, which are common non-allergic effects of calcitonin. Skin testing should be conducted in patients with suspected sensitivity to calcitonin prior to their treatment with calcitonin.	
Extravasation	Calcitonin has a low pH and may cause venous irritation and tissue damage in cases of extravasation. If a central venous access device is unavailable, administer via a large peripheral vein monitoring insertion site closely using a recognised phlebitis scoring tool. Re-site cannula at first signs of inflammation.	
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon calcitonin may be administered at bedtime to reduce the incidence of nausea or vomiting which may occur, especially at the initiation of therapy • Calcitonin is contraindicated in patients with hypocalcaemia 	

Information provided relates to Calcitonin (Essential Pharma)

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