Co-trimoxazole

Co-trimoxazole dosing may be weight based; ensure accuracy of documented weight before administration	
Form	400mg Sulphamethoxazole and 80mg Trimethoprim per 5 mL ampoule
Reconstitution	Already in solution **Dilute further before administration.**
Compatibility & Stability	Sodium Chloride 0.9% Glucose 5% Use prepared infusions immediately. Do not refrigerate. Crystallisation or turbidity may develop at any time; inspect during infusion and discard if present.
Administration	**IV infusion** Dilute each 5mL ampoule with 125mL of compatible fluid e.g. 1 ampoule (480mg in 5mL) in 125mL 2 ampoules (960mg in 10mL) in 250mL 3 ampoules (1440mg in 15mL) in 500mL 4 ampoules (1920mg in 20mL) in 500mL 5 ampoules (2400mg in 25mL) in 1000mL After adding co-trimoxazole to the infusion solution, shake thoroughly to ensure complete mixing. Administer over 60 - 90 minutes. Preferably administer via a central venous access device to avoid potential venous irritation. If given peripherally, choose a large vein and monitor the injection site closely. **Fluid restricted patients:** Each 5mL injection may be diluted with at least 75mL of glucose 5% and administered over 1 hour.
Extravasation	• Extravasation may cause tissue damage. Monitor injection site for signs of phlebitis. • Pain, local irritation, inflammation, and rarely thrombophlebitis may occur with IV use especially if extravasation occurs.
Additional Information	Co-trimoxazole is a mixture of trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole in the proportions of 1 part to 5 parts (i.e. trimethoprim to sulfamethoxazole 16 mg : 80 mg/mL)

Information provided relates to Co-trimoxazole manufactured by Aspen (Septrin®) or Merckle (Cotrim - ratiopharm® unlicensed).

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

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