Gentamicin

Gentamicin dosing is weight based; ensure accuracy of documented weight before administration	
CAUTION: High Administration Risk Rating	
Form	80mg per 2mL vial
Reconstitution	Already in solution
Compatibility & Stability	Sodium Chloride 0.9% Glucose 5%
Administration	**IV Injection** (not suitable for once daily dosing) IV bolus over 3 - 5 minutes undiluted. **IV Infusion** Add the total dose of gentamicin to 100mL of infusion fluid and administer over 20 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. **IM Injection** Withdraw the required dose. Give by IM injection into a large muscle such as the gluteus or the lateral aspect of the thigh. Volumes >4 mL should be distributed between two or more injection sites.
Monitoring	• Drug level monitoring required. Refer to CUH Antimicrobial Guidelines on Microguide for further guidance. • Monitor renal function before starting and during treatment. • Monitor auditory and vestibular function during treatment.
Extravasation	Extravasation is likely to cause tissue damage because of the low pH of the injection.
Additional Information	• To avoid excessive dosage in obese patients (where Actual Body Weight is more than 120% of Ideal Body Weight), use Adjusted Body Weight to calculate dose – see the CUH Antimicrobial Guidelines on Microguide for guidance. • Dose should be rounded to the nearest vial. • Duration should be kept as short as possible (usual maximum duration 5-7 days) to minimise risk of otoxoticity and nephrotoxicity.
NB: HPRA UPDATE 9/11/2017	• The HPRA has been made aware that some batches of gentamicin may contain higher than expected levels of histamine • Patients should be monitored closely for potential adverse reactions associated with increased levels of histamine, which may cause anaphylactoid or hypotensive reactions, and increased heart rate. Heart rate and blood pressure should be monitored throughout administration. • Caution should be exercised when administering gentamicin concomitantly with medicines known to cause histamine release (e.g. opioids and muscle relaxants). • Paediatric patients and patients with severe renal impairment may be more susceptible to the effects of exogenous histamine and should be closely monitored.

Information provided relates to Gentamicin manufactured by Wockhardt.

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