

Ganciclovir

Pregnant women or women who think they may be pregnant should not handle Ganciclovir		
Follow guidelines for handling cytotoxic agents - see PPG-CUH-CUH-266		
Ganciclovir dosing is weight based; ensure accuracy of documented weight before administration		
Reserve Antimicrobial See CUH Antimicrobial Guidelines on Eolas for further information		
CAUTION: High Administration Risk Rating		
Form & Storage	Baxter: Ganciclovir 500mg in 110mL single dose bag	Baxter: Store at room temperature
	CUH: Dose required made in Pharmacy	CUH: Store in the fridge
Reconstitution	N/A	
Compatibility & Stability	N/A	
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave bag in overwrap until use. • Not to be used unless the solution is clear. • Gentle shaking should re-dissolve any crystals that may have formed during transportation. <p>IV infusion only – Administer at a constant rate over one hour. 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.</p> <p>NB: If the patient requires a dose of Ganciclovir of less than 500mg, the infusion pumps should be set to deliver the appropriate portion of the total volume in the container.</p> <p>The remainder should be discarded once the required dose has been administered.</p> <p>This volume (vol) is calculated with the formula below:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> $\text{Vol to be given} = \frac{\text{Dose prescribed(mg)}}{500\text{mg}} \times 110\text{mL}$ $\text{Vol to be given} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ mL}$ </div>	
Handling and Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This medication is potentially teratogenic and carcinogenic- procedures for proper handling and disposal of cytotoxic drugs should be carried out. See PPG-CUH-CUH-266 Policy and Procedure for the handling of cytotoxic intravenous medication for Non-Oncology patients in Cork University Hospital for more information • Dispose of any equipment used to administer Ganciclovir (infusion bag, giving sets etc.) in a purple-lidded waste bin. Partially used bags of Ganciclovir should also be placed in a purple-lidded waste bin. • Refer to Guidelines on the Safe Prescribing, Handling and Administration of Ganciclovir. 	
Extravasation	Extravasation is likely to cause tissue damage due to extreme pH.	
Additional Information	Ganciclovir should only be infused into veins with adequate blood flow to permit rapid dilution and distribution.	

Information provided relates to Ganciclovir 500mg infusion (Baxter) and Cymeven® (Roche)

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.