

Heparin (Unfractionated)

Potential SALAD Ensure correct unfractionated heparin concentration is selected when preparing & administering unfractionated heparin. To reduce the risk of error it is recommended that only heparin 1000 units in 1mL preparations are routinely stocked in clinical areas.		
CAUTION: High Administration Risk Rating		
CAUTION: Heparin may be administered as a loading dose followed by a maintenance dose . Double check the correct dose has been prescribed.		
Form	5000 units UFH per 5 mL vial (1000 units per mL) 25000 units UFH per 5 mL vial (5,000 units per mL) (ITUs, Cardiac Theatre, Dialysis only) - Flushing solution 50 units per 5mL (10 units/mL) (preservative free) Not for therapeutic use 1000 units per 1mL ampoule (preservative free)	Store below 25°C
Reconstitution	Already in solution Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle Use gloves when opening ampoules	
Compatibility & Stability	Sodium chloride 0.9%	
Administration	Loading Dose: IV Injection Give slowly over at least 3 minutes	
	Continuous IV Infusion 25000/50mL (500 units/mL) maintenance infusion Draw up 25mL of UFH 1000 units/mL in a syringe (5 vials of 5000 units in 5mL) Add 25 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% to give a concentration of 500 units/mL Administer by syringe pump.	
	- Refer to Unfractionated Heparin Guideline and Form 725:V3 on QPulse. - Rate is adjusted according to Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time ratio (APTT ratio)	
Neutralisation of Heparin	If rapid reversal of the effects of unfractionated heparin is required Protamine sulphate is a specific antidote.	
Monitoring	- Measure the APTT ratio regularly and adjust the rate of continuous infusion accordingly. Refer to Unfractionated Heparin Guideline and Form 725:V3 on QPulse. - Monitor platelets before, during and after treatment due to risk of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia: - Measure plasma-potassium concentration in patients at risk of hyperkalaemia before starting heparin and monitored regularly thereafter.	
Additional Information	Unfractionated heparin for systemic anticoagulation is usually prescribed as a loading dose followed by a maintenance dose.	

Information provided relates to Heparin (Wockhardt) Last updated 22/5/2026

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