

DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

Supply Disruption

DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/FORM:

Heparin (500 units) in Sodium Chloride 0.9% (500ml) infusion bags

PROBLEM

- Baxters Healthcare have informed us that heparin in sodium chloride 0.9% 500units in 500ml infusion bags are out of stock and are unable to provide a date of supply.
- SWB pharmacy department has limited stock

ADVICE

- Once all the remaining stock has been used, a trained member of staff will need to prepare a heparin 500unit in sodium chloride 0.9% infusion bag following the guidance below.

ALTERNATIVE

- The infusion bag is to be made up before administration using:
 - Heparin 1000 units in 1ml (5ml vial)
 - Sodium chloride 0.9% 500ml bag

To prepare an infusion bag of heparin in sodium chloride 0.9% 500 units in 500ml:

1. Draw up 0.5ml (500 units) of heparin from a 5ml vial (1000units in 1ml) and add to the sodium chloride 0.9% infusion bag
2. Mix well by inverting the bag 5 times
3. Label the bag stating strength and final volume i.e. Heparin in sodium chloride 0.9% 500 units in 500ml
4. Add a 24 hour expiry to the bag at the time of preparation
5. Infuse the prescribed dose and discard the remainder

ACTIONS

- Staff who are responsible for preparing and administering drugs to be aware of the shortage and how to make up the infusion bags if necessary

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT WARD PHARMACIST OR TECHNICIAN
PHARMACY DEPARTMENT: CITY x5263; SANDWELL x3783**

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