



DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

Supply Disruption

DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/FORM:

SODIUM BICARBONATE 1.26% POLYFUSORS (Fresenius Kabi)

PROBLEM

• Sodium bicarbonate 1.26% polyfusors are out of stock until further notice.

ADVICE

- Sodium bicarbonate for intravenous infusion is licensed for the treatment of metabolic acidosis and rapid urine alkalinisation.
- The volume, strength and rate of infusion will depend upon the requirements of individual patients. In less urgent forms of metabolic acidosis, an average dose for adults and older children is 2-5 mmol of bicarbonate per kg bodyweight, given over 4-8 hours. Subsequent doses should be adjusted to the individual patients' requirements.¹
- Sodium bicarbonate 1.26% and 1.4% are suitable for peripheral administration. In nonemergencies, concentrations over 1.4% should be given via a central venous access device but in emergencies, higher concentrations (4.2% and 8.4%) may be given peripherally.²

ALTERNATIVE

- Pharmacy has no stock of the 1.26% Polyfusors and will not be able to procure further supplies.
- Sodium bicarbonate 1.4% Polyfusors will be available from Pharmacy from the 7th November 2023.
- In the interim where sodium bicarbonate 1.26% solution is required, sodium bicarbonate 8.4% (bicarbonate 1mmol/mL, sodium 1mmol/mL) may be diluted as outlined below.





To prepare a solution of sodium bicarbonate 1.26%:

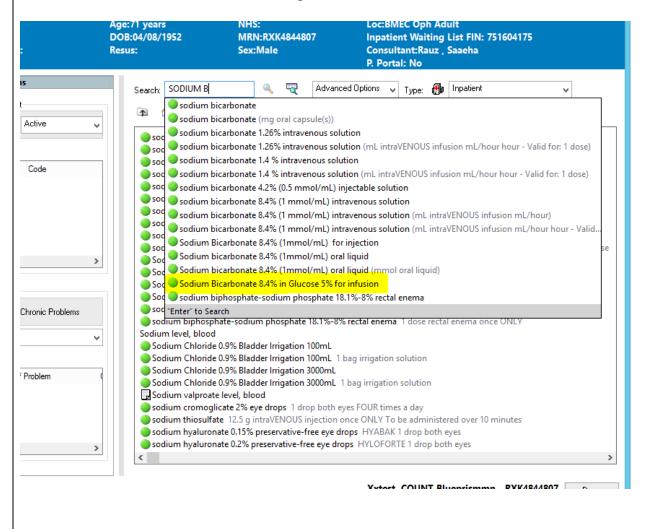
- 1. Remove 75mls of glucose 5% from a 500ml infusion bag.
- 2. Draw up 75mls of sodium bicarbonate 8.4% injection and add to the remaining 425mls of glucose 5% in the infusion bag.
- 3. Mix well by inverting the bag 5 times.
- 4. Label bag stating strength and final volume i.e., sodium bicarbonate 1.26%, volume 500mL.
- 5. Do not mix any other drugs or fluids with sodium bicarbonate infusion.
- 6. Infuse the dose prescribed and discard the rest.

It should be noted that sodium bicarbonate infusions prepared in glucose 5% have a higher osmolarity (540-570mOsmol/L) than the Polyfusor® solution and may be more irritant to the vein, thus it should preferably be administered via a large vein.

Other diluents can be used (see Medusa) but additional sodium content and changes in the osmolarity of the solution should be taken into account.

To prescribe the solution of sodium bicarbonate 1.26%:

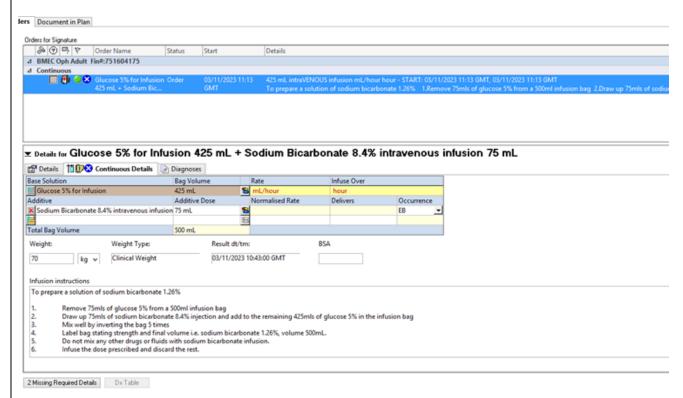
1. Select the sodium bicarbonate 8.4% in glucose 5% for infusion IV set











- 3. Sign the prescription.
- 4. Navigate to the drug chart and refresh to ensure the prescription is correct.

ACTIONS

- Prescribers to be aware of the shortage of sodium bicarbonate 1.26% polyfusors and to use sodium bicarbonate 1.4% polyfusors where appropriate.
- Where 1.26% sodium bicarbonate solution is required, the 8.4% solution can be diluted as above to obtain the desired concentration.

REFERENCES

- 1. Fresenius Kabi Limited. Sodium Bicarbonate 1.26% solution for infusion. SPC, date of revision of the text12/01/2015, accessed via MHRA, 9th December 2020
- 2. Injectable Medicines Guide (Medusa). Sodium bicarbonate monograph. Reviewed 23rd January 2023

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD BASED PHARMACY TEAM OR

THE PHARAMCY DEPARTEMENT (CITY ext.5263; SANDWELL ext.3783).
OUT OF HOURS CONTACT THE ON-CALL PHARAMCIST

DATE OF ISSUE: 03.11.2023 | REFERENCE NUMBER: 01-1123



