Reporting
Improving
Understanding

Safe Care Bulletin

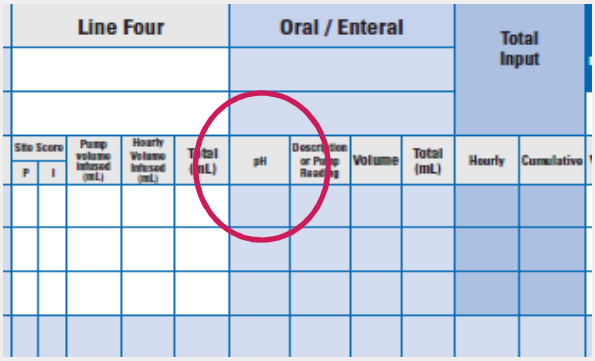
Starship Child Health
September 2018

Changes to Fluid Balance Chart:

To facilitate practice improvement resulting from a patient safety review involving a misplaced nasogastric tube and also reported infusion incidences there are some changes to the fluid balance chart used at Starship.

Placement of a nasogastric tube is common practice and often considered an innocuous procedure. Ongoing verification of position using pH test is the primary means to ensure patient safety.

Fluid balance chart now includes a designated place to record the PH prior to any medication or feed administration.

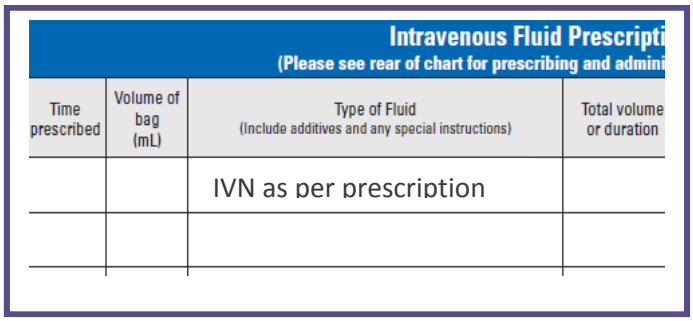


Prompt developed & included on the fluid balance chart

Coming soon - changing to a different pH strip that is easier to read and interpret

There is a risk of error when medication infusions or intravenous nutrition are prescribed in 2 places. For example, changes to the prescription are not always updated in both places leading to an incorrect rate being administered.

- Continuous medication infusions must ONLY be prescribed on the National Medication Chart (or designated chart e.g. pain modality).
- Intravenous Nutrition (IVN) must ONLY be prescribed on the designated IVN prescription chart.
- IVN and continuous medication infusion hourly volumes are recorded on the fluid balance chart and a CROSS REFERENCE STATEMENT can be written on the prescription section of the chart.



Written by: Elaine McCall (Leader Safe Care). The information in this bulletin is believed to be true and accurate. It is issued on the understanding that it is the best available information