Prescribing intravenous fluids for ADULTS

There is a new Intravenous fluid prescription chart for ADULTS which is to be used in most areas of the Trust; exceptions are documented on the chart. The chart has been redesigned to concord with NICE guidelines for prescribing intravenous fluids and improve Trust compliance with these guidelines.

The guidance should be self-explanatory but a brief outline is given below;

1. Assess the Patient
2. Decide why you are prescribing intravenous fluids - are they for resuscitation, for replacement of abnormal losses, or for maintenance of hydration in someone that cannot take fluids enterally?
3. Record the indication for prescribing intravenous fluids when writing your prescription
4. When prescribing maintenance fluids use an appropriate fluid and rate for the patients weight
5. When prescribing resuscitation fluids reassess and seek senior (SpR or above) advice sooner rather than later
6. Complete all parts of the prescription accurately
7. The chart includes other advice - please use it; if in doubt ask a senior medical colleague
8. SENIOR DOCTORS LEADING WARD ROUNDS – intravenous fluids should be reviewed daily and the outcome of that review recorded in the medical notes. This review should include the indication for continuing intravenous fluid in your patient.


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