



## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

# HEPARIN

<b>Scope (Staff):</b>	All WNHS Staff
<b>Scope (Area):</b>	Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

### Quick Links

[Dose](#)[Administration](#)[Monitoring](#)[Pregnancy and  
Breastfeeding](#)

### Restrictions

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

[HIGH RISK Medication](#) 

### Medication Class

Heparins (unfractionated)

### Presentation

#### Ampoule:

- 1000 units in 1 mL
- 5000 units in 1 mL
- 5000 units in 0.2 mL
- 5000 units in 5 mL
- 25000 units in 5 mL

#### Heparinised Saline:

**Ampoule:** 50 units in 5 mL Sodium Chloride 0.9%

**Bag:** 1000 units in 500 mL Sodium Chloride 0.9%

### Storage

Store below 25°C.

## Dose

### **Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prophylaxis**

#### **Subcut:**

5000 units every 8 to 12 hours

See [Venous Thromboembolism \(VTE\): Prevention and Management, Anticoagulation Medication Chart MR 810.11](#)

### **VTE Treatment**

See [Anticoagulation Medication Chart MR 810.11](#)

### **VTE Treatment & Prophylaxis for Obstetric Women:**

See [Venous Thromboembolism \(VTE\): Prevention and Management](#)

## Administration

Refer to the [Anticoagulation Medication Chart MR 810.11](#) and [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

### **Bolus Dosing when IV Heparin Infusion Running**

**Step 1:** Withdraw required dose from a 1000 units/mL concentration ampoule.

**Step 2:** Inject undiluted over 3 to 5 minutes via Y site or through a separate cannula.

## Monitoring

Unfractionated Heparin can cause Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) - Baseline FBC, then platelet count every 2 to 3 days.

An unexpectedly high APTT may be due to blood sample being taken from same limb as heparin infusion.

## Pregnancy

**1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use.

## Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use.

## Comments

Mix bag thoroughly when preparing solution (invert at least 6 times to prevent pooling of heparin).

## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

### HDWA Mandatory Policies:

[High Risk Medication Policy](#)

### WNHS Policies:

[High Risk Medicines](#)

### WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

KEMH Pharmaceutical & Medicines Management Guideline: [Medication Administration](#)









## References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Heparin. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2023 [cited 2023 Mar 07]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

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