**SYRINGE LABELLING IN CRITICAL CARE AREAS**

**AIM**: To simplifies medication recognition, assigning unique colours to different drug types. This streamlined process significantly reduces medication error risks by visually distinguishing medications which in turn enhances patient safety and boosts healthcare staff confidence.

**PATIENT:** This local operating policy applies to all inpatients stay in critical care.

**STAFF:** All health care professionals who prepare and/or administer injectable medicines.

**General Principles:** Injectable medications prepared in syringes must adhere to correct labelling using the standardised colour-coded labels, as illustrated below. These labels must be correctly labelled to include information such as the medication type, dosage, volume, diluent, patient's name, an additional patient identifier (e.g., hospital number or date of birth), ward, preparation date and time, expiration date, the name of the individual who prepared it, and the name of the person responsible for verification.

**A yellow prescription form with black text

Description automatically generatedSYRINGE LABELS**

**SEDATION / INDUCTION *(YELLOW)***

* **PROPOFOL**
* **KETAMINE**
* **ETOMIDATE**
* THIOPENTAL

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**OPIOIDS *(BLUE)***

* **FENTANYL**
* **ALFENTANIL**
* **MORPHINE**
* **REMIFENTANIL**

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**MUSCLE RELAXANTS *(WARM RED)***

* **CISATRACURIUM**
* **ATRACURIUM**
* ATRACURIUM

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**BENZODIAZEPINES *(ORANGE)***

* **MIDAZOLAM**
* **DIAZEPAM**

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**VASOPRESSORS *(Purple)***

* **METARAMINOL**
* **PHENYLEPHRINE**
* **NORADRENALINE**
* **ADRENALINE**
* **EPHEDRINE**
* **VASOPRESSIN**
* **DOBUTAMINE**

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**OTHER DRUGS *(WHITE)***

* **ANTIBIOTICS**
* **POTASSIUM**
* **ACTRAPID**
* **HEPARIN**

**etc**

**How to order labels**: You can order these labels as ward stock from the pharmacy, as demonstrated in the example below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of labels** | **How to write the requisition** | **Quantity** |
| Sedation/induction agents | Drugs added labels - Yellow | 1 roll =1000 labels |
| Opioids | Drugs added labels - Blue |
| Muscle relaxants | Drugs added labels - Red |
| Benzodiazepines | Drugs added labels - Orange |
| Vasopressors | Drugs added labels - Purple |
| Others | Drugs added labels - White |