

"Maintenance" IV fluid in euvolaemic neonates

Index: [Intravenous fluid therapy](#)

Original article by: [Michael Tam](#)

Neonates (birth to 4 weeks) should be treated as different from other [children](#) and have their own needs for fluids. Before you write up fluids for a neonate, you should be asking yourself the following questions:

1. Why are you writing this up rather than the neonatal team?
2. Are you actually sure that this neonate is euvolaemic?
3. Why does this neonate need IV fluids?
4. Does the neonate have some acute illness or congenital issue that makes "normal" or "usual" fluid management inappropriate?



Oral intake is always preferable

If you are satisfied that writing up the "maintenance" intravenous fluids is in fact your responsibility, then you can do the following:

1 day old (0 - 48 hours - first two days of life)

- 0.45% NaCl + 10% dextrose
- 500 mL bag
- Rate: 60 mL/kg/day (2.5 mL/kg/hr)
- *Note: Victoria Royal Hospital for Women [SCN protocol](#) suggests using 10% dextrose*

2 days old:

- 0.45% NaCl + 10% dextrose + 10 mmol KCl
- 500 mL bag
- Rate: 72 mL/kg/day (3 mL/kg/hr)

3 days old to one month:

- 0.45% NaCl + 10% dextrose + 10 mmol KCl
- 500 mL bag
- Rate: 96 mL/kg/day (4 mL/kg/hr)

Updated: Michael Tam (19 June 2006)

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