

Management of Anaesthetic Drugs during the COVID 19 Pandemic

During the emergency period relating to Covid-19, it is essential to minimise wastage of critical medicines across the UK, balanced against the risk of microbiological contamination. This has been requested by the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Association of Anaesthetists, Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, Intensive Care Society and UK Clinical Pharmacy Association

This is how this will be managed in Cardiff and Vale UHB:

All prepared syringes must be stored in a refrigerator (except controlled drugs), administered within 24 hours of preparation, or discarded appropriately.

1. In theatre

- a. Only draw up what you need, including emergency drugs. Suggest that you have emergency drugs and syringes available in the clean area
- b. Ampoules and vials can be shared if drawn up into syringes using an aseptic no-touch technique (ANTT). All syringes must be labelled with the drug name, concentration, time, date and name of the person drawing them up. Drugs can be stored for up to 24 hours and must then be discarded:
 - 1) Ampoules - unused portions can be drawn into suitable sized syringes using a filter needle if possible. Cap with blind hubs label as above and store in the theatre fridge.
 - 2) Vials – up to 5 doses may be withdrawn into suitable sized syringes, capped and labelled as above and stored in the theatre fridge.
- c. Controlled Drugs can also be shared in a similar fashion, but labelled syringes with a red hub must be stored in the locked CD cupboard for up to 24 hours. Unused/expired syringes must be disposed as per UHB CD destruction policy.
- d. Opened vials of propofol may be stored for up to 12 hours. This may need to be revised to 24 hours.

2. MERIT teams

- a. Draw up drugs as normal (ideally using a filter needle), but divide the 10ml fentanyl in to smaller-capped syringes, labelled as above and stored in the CD cupboard.
- b. Metaraminol infusion - make up with 2x 1ml ampoules of 10mg/ml metaraminol and 38ml saline. Do not make up a separate 20ml syringe.
- c. Divide drugs into 2 trays – clean and dirty

CLEAN	DIRTY
Metaraminol infusion	Fentanyl 200mcg
Ephedrine	Esketamine (dose required)
Atropine	Rocuronium (dose required)
Glycopyrrolate	
Rocuronium 2 ampoules (spare)	
Fentanyl 100mcg (spare)	

- d. Leave your clean tray outside the intubating room - this means your clean runner can pass drugs to you if needed in a similar fashion to plan B intubating bag.
- e. Leave unused drugs in ITU. We are developing a procedure by which they will accept drugs drawn up in theatre.

Details and protocols for national guidance:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Guidance-Minimising-Wastage-of-Critical-Injectable-Medicines-clinical-areas-V2b.pdf>

https://icmanaesthesiacovid-19.org/drug-demand-supply-anaesthetic-drug-usage-and-administration?utm_source=COVID-19+-+ALL+MEMBERSHIP&utm_campaign=70ec71cb59-Guidance+manage+additional+demand+medicines&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bbfed564bc-70ec71cb59-173248953

1