Evaluation of ISMP Guidelines on Intravenous Infusion Identification: A Call for Standardization and Risk Reduction

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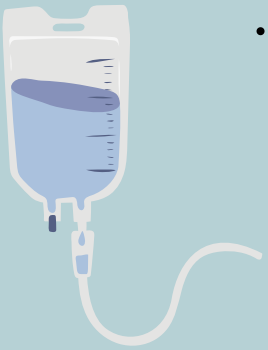
BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

- Numerous organizations emphasize the importance of proper identification of intravenous preparations to minimize administration errors.
- The minimum information that should be included is: patient identification details (name, medical record number, and location), active ingredient, dose, and route of administration.



- For intravenous infusions, additional details should include: final volume, infusion rate and infusion time, date and time of preparation, stability or expiration if less than 24 hours.

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the identification of intravenous infusions in healthcare units according to the recommendations of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Observational, descriptive, cross-sectional, and multidisciplinary study conducted in a regional hospital in October 2024.
- All intravenous infusions administered in adult medical and surgical inpatient units were evaluated.
- The following variables were collected: patient identification details, type of infusion (continuous or intermittent), active ingredient, dose, and start and end time of infusion.

RESULTS

N = 107	Continuous Infusions (n=65)		Intermittent Infusions (n=42)	
Full Patient ID Details	21.5%		0%	
Active Ingredient Presence	47.7%	For infusions where the active ingredient was listed: 10 specified the dose, 1 did not, and 6 were unknown	88.1%	Among infusions where the active ingredient was listed, 21 specified the dose
Start/End Times Recorded	80%		7.1% (Start Time)	0% (End Time)

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

The identification of intravenous infusions in our center does not comply with the ISMP recommendations. Improvement actions should be implemented to standardize labelling and identification protocols for these preparations, in order to minimize the risk of administration errors. Additionally, further studies will be necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures adopted.

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