Common Abbreviations

**Times**

- **a.c.** before meals
- **b.d.** twice daily
- **mane** morning
- **nocte** night
- **p.c.** after meals
- **p.r.n.** when required
- **q.i.d.** four times a day
- **stat** immediately
- **t.d.s** three times a day

**Routes**

- **IA** intra-arterial
- **IC** intracardiac
- **ID** intradermal
- **IM** intramuscular
- **IT** intrathecal
- **IV** intravenous
- **NG** nasogastric
- **O** oral
- **PR** rectal
- **PV** vaginal
- **SC** subcutaneous
- **SL** sublingual

**Useful units and concentrations**

- 1 gram (g) = 1000 milligrams (mg)
- 1 milligram (mg) = 1000 micrograms (microg)
- 1 litre (L) = 1000 millilitres (mL)

**Abbreviated calculations (see reverse)**

AR = amount required, VR = volume required, T = time, SR = solution required, SS = stock strength, S = solution, DR = drug dosage rate, TL = total, AD = adult dose, Wt = weight, A = adult, SA = surface area, V = volume
Drug Doses and Drip rates Calculation Formulae

Oral drugs (solids, liquids)

\[
AR = \frac{SR}{SS} \times V \text{ of SS}
\]

Parenteral drugs

Solutions (IM, IV injections)

\[
VR = \frac{SR}{SS} \times V \text{ of SS}
\]

IV Infusions

Rate (drops/min) = \(\frac{V \text{ of S (mL)} \times \text{No. of drops/mL}}{T \text{ (min)}}\)

\(V \text{ of S (mL)} \times \text{No. of drops/mL}
\)

\(T \text{ (min)}\)

NB: A drip chamber delivers 20 drops / mL

Rate (mL/h) = \(\frac{DR \text{ (mg/h)} \times V \text{ of S (mL)}}{T \text{ amount of drug (mg)}}\)

\(DR \text{ (mg/h)} \times V \text{ of S (mL)}\)

\(T \text{ amount of drug (mg)}\)

NB: After selecting the appropriate formula, ensure that all strengths are in the same units, otherwise convert.

Infusion pumps

Rate (mL/h) = \(\frac{V \text{ (mL)}}{T \text{ (h)}}\)

\(V \text{ (mL)}\)

\(T \text{ (h)}\)

Clark’s Body Weight Rule

Child’s dose = \(\frac{AD \times \text{Wt of child (kg)}}{\text{Average adult Wt (70kg)}}\)

Clark’s Body Surface Area Rule

Child’s dose = \(\frac{AD \times \text{SA of child (m}^2\text{)}}{\text{Average SA of adult (1.7m}^2\text{)}}\)