Intravenous Nicardipine Quick Reference Cardene®

Who administers		RN
Must MD be present during administration		No
Monitoring required		Patients are always placed on telemetry and noninvasive BP monitoring. Monitor BP before initial dose and every 15 minutes for 1 hour after the infusion is initiated and after a dose change. Thereafter, blood pressure is followed at a minimum of every 30 minutes and if clinical deterioration occurs. Be prepared for hypotension.
Measurement of intervals required		None
Suggested bedside equipment for emergency		Primed IV line of normal saline to treat hypotension.
Classification:	muscle cells resulting in coron	ne calcium-channel blocker that inhibits the contractile processes of smooth ary and systemic vasodilatation.
Indication:	I.V. Nicardipine is indicated for the treatment of hypertension, including hypertensive urgency and hypertensive emergency.	
Adverse Effects:	Hypotension, headache, and tachycardia may occur. In patients who are taking beta-blocking agents, Nicardipine may precipitate or exacerbate heart failure.	
Medication Administration:	For rapid treatment of severe hypertension, including stroke patients not eligible for thrombolytic thera and during and after the administration of thrombolytic therapy:	
		renteral products for particulate matter and discoloration prior to ever solution and container permit.
	<i>Dilution:</i> •Ampuls must be diluted prior to infusion. Dilute each ampul (25 mg/10 ml) with 240 ml normal saline to make 250 ml of IV solution. The final concentration should be 0.1 mg/ml.	
	If a peripheral vein i	is used, the infusion site should be changed every 12 hours.
	may be increased by	mg/hour as a continuous IV infusion. The initial infusion rate of 5mg/hr IV 2.5 mg/hr every 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 mg/hr, to maintain a SBP g and DBP <110 mm Hg. In general, aim for a 10-15% reduction in SBP.
	$\frac{\text{For each 250 ml of } \Gamma}{3 \text{mg/hr} =} 30 \text{ml/h}}$ $5 \text{ mg/hr} = 50 \text{ ml/h}$ $7.5 \text{ mg/hr} = 75 \text{ ml/h}$ $10 \text{ mg/hr} = 100 \text{ ml}$ $12.5 \text{ mg/hr} = 125 \text{ ml}$ $15 \text{ mg/hr} = 150 \text{ ml}$	r hr hr /hr /hr
Documentation:	Document in MAR dose administered.	
Contraindications/ Cautions:	Nicardipine is contraindicated in patients with hypotension and in advanced aortic stenosis. It should be used cautiously in those with impaired renal or hepatic function or in combination with a beta-blocker in CHF or significant left ventricular dysfunction patients and in patients with portal hypertension. Cyclosporine and digoxin levels should be closely monitored during therapy.	