

## National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines

In 2015 the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care reviewed and expanded the *National Labelling Recommendations* to the National Standard for User-Applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines. In addition to the previous recommendations, the *Labelling Standard* now includes:

### 1. Labelling of containers in peri-operative settings

Two user-applied labelling standards apply in perioperative areas:

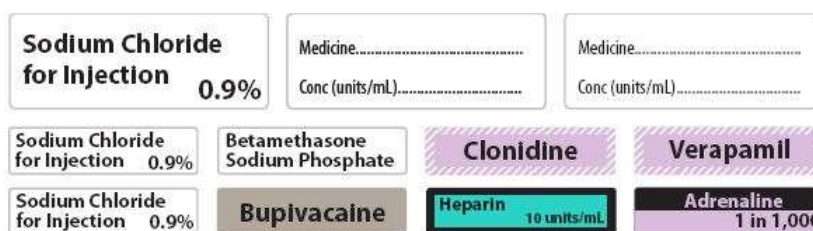
- i. **Anaesthetic Labelling Standard** for labelling syringes containing medicines used for the purposes of anaesthesia (page 12-13 of *Labelling Standard*).



- ii. new *Labelling Standard* which applies to:
  - > containers and conduits for any injectable medicine or fluid where the Anaesthetic Labelling Standard is not applicable
    - > **Open-practice environments**, including preparation and recovery areas - use container labels with full identification (page 38-39)



- > **Closed-practice environments** - use abbreviated container labels on perioperative sterile fields



- > all **non-injectable solutions**, chemicals and reagents when these are removed from their original containers (page 19)



## Fact Sheet

### 2. Colour coded pre-printed medicine labels for use on dedicated continuous infusion lines

Administration lines dedicated to continuous infusions must be labelled to identify the medicine within the line. Pre-printed medicine line labels are recommended for commonly used medicines. Refer to page 14-15 and page 21 of the *Labelling Standard* for examples and label specifications.



### 3. Oral, enteral and inhalation route

Only syringes specifically designed for administration of medicines orally or via other enteral routes should be used for these purposes. These syringes should be clearly labelled with, for example, 'For Oral Use Only' or 'For Enteral Use Only'. If medicines are administered enterally via a bag or syringe, the container should be labelled with the 'For Enteral Use Only' label.

Ideally, medicines for inhalation should be made available in single-use nebulers to avoid measurement in a syringe. If a nebuliser solution is measured in a syringe, the syringe should be clearly labelled 'For Inhalation Use Only'.

**For Enteral Use Only**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicine/s	Amount (units)	÷	Volume (mL)	=	Conc (units/mL)

Order: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Inhalation Use Only**

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicine/s	Amount (units)	÷	Volume (mL)	=	Conc (units/mL)

Order: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Locked catheter

Where central venous access devices are 'locked' with a medicine, for example dialysis catheters, the medicine in situ should be identified for route and medicine content using the catheter lock line label.

**Catheter Lock**

Medicine: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lumen volume (mL)	Final amount (units)
Arterial lumen: _____	_____
Venous lumen: _____	_____

Remove medicine used as a 'lock' from lumen(s) prior to catheter use.

For more information

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