05-1004 – Potassium Chloride Infusion - Optional Scope

Authority

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Purpose

To authorize paramedics to monitor existing intravenous potassium chloride infusions during interfacility transports.

Policy

1. Signed transfer orders from the transferring physician shall be obtained prior to transport.
2. Confirm attending physicians' orders including infusion rates and concentrations.

Potassium Chloride Infusion:

1. Paramedics shall not initiate potassium chloride infusions.
2. Intravenous potassium must be monitored by an intravenous infusion device that the Paramedic has been trained (demonstrated annual competency).
3. If medication administration is interrupted (infiltration, accidental disconnection, malfunctioning pump, etc.), the paramedic may restart the line as delineated in the transfer orders.
4. If a pump failure occurs and cannot be corrected, the paramedic is to discontinue the potassium chloride infusion and notify the base hospital physician.
5. ***Potassium chloride may not be gravity infused.***

Pre-Existing Potassium Chloride Infusion:

The following parameters shall apply to all patients with pre-existing potassium chloride infusion:

1. Medication concentration shall not exceed 40 meq per liter of IV fluid.
2. Infusion rate must remain constant during transport with no regulation of rate being performed by paramedic.
3. INFUSION RATE MAY NOT EXCEED 10 meq PER HOUR.
4. ***Potassium chloride may not be gravity infused.***
5. ***Potassium Chloride is NEVER GIVEN IV PUSH OR IM.***
6. This potassium chloride policy refers to adults only.
7. Always monitor for infiltration at a minimum every 15 minutes.