

Medication Ordering – Continuous Infusions

Purpose

This document provides a concise reference for prescribers on how to order common continuous infusions in Meditech Expanse. It highlights key actions, system behaviors, and clinical considerations to support safe and efficient prescribing.

Audience

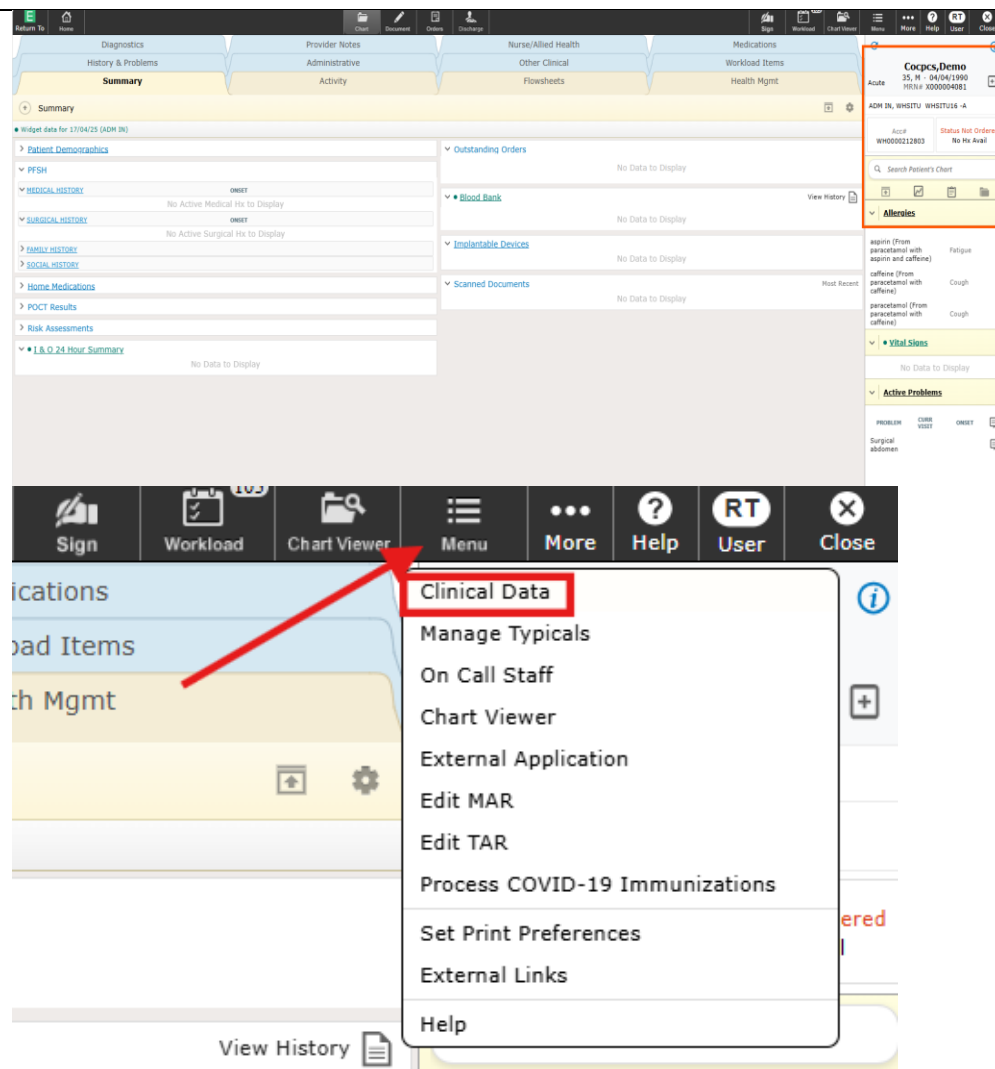
Doctors, Nurses, Clinical Pharmacists

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Changes Made
1.0	23-Oct-2025	Justin Capati, Christopher Meddings, Medical Services	Initial draft

Medication Ordering – Continuous Infusions

This guide outlines the steps for ordering commonly used continuous infusions, e.g. **Noradrenaline and Propofol**, in Meditech Expanse. It covers key ordering principles, infusion parameters, and safety checks to ensure accurate and safe prescribing.



Before ordering any medications or infusions, prescribers must ensure key patient details are documented—specifically the patient's height, weight (including dosing weight), and allergy information.

N.B.

Medications cannot be ordered unless the patient's **height, weight, and allergy information** are recorded in the system.

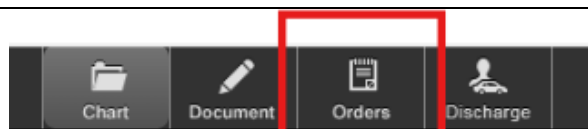
On admission, nurses typically enter the patient's height and weight via the admission assessment. The weight recorded at this stage will automatically populate the **medication dosing weight field**.

To confirm if a medication dosing weight has been entered, go to **Menu > Clinical Data**.

The **medication dosing weight** is used for all weight-based medication calculations, so it's essential this field is completed accurately.

If these details haven't been entered and prescribing is urgent, prescribers can manually input height and weight via the **Clinical Data** screen.

Prescribers may also adjust the medication dosing weight **at their clinical discretion** by updating the value directly in the dosing weight field.



Noradrenaline infusion ordering

When prescribing any continuous infusions—look for the product **labelled with “infusion”** (e.g. *Noradrenaline Infusion*), not the base ampoule.

Once key patient data is recorded, you can begin prescribing infusions by clicking 'Order' to access the ordering screen.

To prescribe Noradrenaline, for example:

- Type “noradrenaline” into the search bar.
- The system will display results starting from the smallest product level (e.g. ampoules) up to infusion strings.

Select desired noradrenaline concentration by checking the check box

Once the infusion is selected, the system will display all available order strings associated with that product.

When choosing the correct string:

- **Check the concentration:** Select the string that matches your clinical area's standard concentration (e.g. Noradrenaline 4 mg in 50 mL).
- **Ensure** dose rate is correct

Always review infusion parameters by expanding the order screen.

Click the down chevron to reveal editable fields such as **starting rate, units, duration**, and other key settings before finalising the order.

Infusions such as Noradrenaline are configured to default to the **lowest starting rate**.

You can adjust this by editing the value in the Starting Rate field. Always ensure the units (e.g. **mcg/kg/min**) are correct and clinically appropriate.

Continuous infusions are built with a **continuous PRN frequency and schedule**, meaning repeat prescriptions are generally not required. Nurses can replace the syringe and continue administration using the same active order when the infusion runs out. However, a **new prescription is required** if a different concentration is needed—such as double or triple strength Noradrenaline infusion.

For any infusion that is titratable, a protocol is required to be selected.

Where possible this has been defaulted in, however for some infusions, such as insulin sliding scale or heparin infusion, a selection is required.

Propofol infusion order

Orders

CURRENT ENTER

Add New Process Order

Favorites Sort propofol

propofol 1% IV INJ

propofol 1% infusion (PFS) IV INF

propofol (1%) 500 mg in 50 mL NEAT continuous infusion PFS

50 mg/hr IV INF CONTINUOUS PRN (P) (L)

propofol 1% infusion (vial) IV INF

propofol 2%

propofol 2% infusion IV INF

propofol 1% infusion (PFS) IV INF

propofol (1%) 500 mg in 50 mL NEAT continuous infusion PFS (P) (L) 23/10/25 10:37 STOP DATE New

propofol 1% [propofol 500 mg / 50 mL PFS] 500 mg in 50 mL IV INF CONTINUOUS 50 mg/hr PRN

Premix Medication

propofol 1% [propofol 500 mg / 50 mL PFS] 500 MG 50 ML

Total Volume 50 Unit ml

Titrate Yes No

* Starting Rate 50

* Units mg/hr

Infusion Site

* Route IV INF

* Sch PRN

* Frequency CONTINUOUS

* Start Date Today

* Start Time 10:37

Stop Date

Stop Time

Notify Add/View

You can follow the same steps to order other continuous infusions such as Propofol, Fentanyl, and Milrinone.

Search for the medication name, select the appropriate **infusion string** (not the base product), and review the **infusion parameters**—including starting rate, units, and frequency—before finalising the order.

heparin infusion IV INF

heparin [heparin sodium PF 5,000 unit / 5 mL ampoule] 20,000 unit IV INF CONTINUOUS PRN 28/10/25 16:42 STOP DATE New

neat IV INF CONTINUOUS 100 unit/hr

* IV Fluid

Neat [Neat] 0 ml

Additive/Medication

Heparin [Heparin Sodium PF 5,000 Unit / 5 mL Ampoule] 20,000 unit

* Volume Per Bag

* Amount

acetaZOLAMIDE [acetaZOLAMIDE 500 mg vial]

acetylcysteine [acetylcysteine 2000 mg / 10 mL ampoule]

aciclovir [aciclovir 250 mg vial]

aciclovir [aciclovir 500 mg / 20 mL vial]

aciclovir [aciclovir 500 mg vial]

adrenaline [adrenaline 1 mg / 10 mL (1 in 10,000) ampoule]

adrenaline [adrenaline 1 mg / 10 mL (1 in 10,000) PFS]

adrenaline [adrenaline 1 mg / mL (1 in 1,000) ampoule]

adrenaline [adrenaline 5 mg / 5 mL (1 in 1,000) ampoule]

adrenaline [adrenaline 500 mcg/5mL (1 in 10,000) ampoule]

Continuous infusion order strings are built as complete as possible.

Not all combinations of infusions have been configured in Expanse.

The contents can be amended, including the fluid choice.

Note the choice of fluids is not restricted and clinical decision needs to be applied ensuring the compatibility of products chosen

