

DROPS PER MINUTE REFERENCE CHART

The use of an electronic infusion device or IV pump is recommended for safe, accurate, and precise medication and fluid administration. There are however times when a pump is not used, is unavailable, or the need to verify the accuracy of a flow device, such as a dial-a-flow is warranted. The following chart is a quick reference guide for the number drops to be infused per minute with the known factor of the desired hourly infusion rate. A healthcare provider must also have a working knowledge of the variable administration set drop factor. The drop factor is the calibration of how many drops the tubing delivers, to equal one milliliter of fluid, and may be found on the administration set package.

DROP FACTOR ↓	← (mL / hour) →															
	20	25	30	50	60	70	75	80	100	110	120	125	130	150	175	200
	↓ DROPS PER MINUTE ↓															
10 Drops / mL	3	4	5	8	10	11	12	13	16	18	20	21	22	25	30	34
15 Drops / mL	5	6	7	12	15	17	18	20	25	27	30	31	32	38	44	50
20 Drops / mL	6	8	10	16	20	22	24	26	32	36	40	42	44	50	60	68
60 Drops / mL	20	25	30	50	60	70	75	80	100	110	120	125	130	150	175	200

To Calculate IV Flow Rate:

- Volume of fluid to be infused
- Total infusion time
- Drop Factor: the # of drops per mL that the tubing delivers; found on the tubing package

$$\frac{\text{Volume (mL)}}{\text{Time (hours)}} = \text{Hourly IV Flow Rate}$$