

GUIDE TO CALCULATING IV DRIP RATES

TERMS:

Drop Factor: # of drops per mL of solution; may be found on tubing package

Microdrop: 60 gtts/mL; used for small or precise infusions

Macrodrop: 10-20 gtts/mL; used for quick or large infusions

Calculating the Number of mL to Infuse Per Hour

FORMULA:

$$\frac{\text{Volume (mL)}}{\text{Time (hrs)}} = \text{mL per hour}$$

EXAMPLE:

$$\frac{1,000 \text{ mL}}{8 \text{ hrs}} = 125 \text{ mL per hour}$$

Calculating the IV Flow Rate in Drops Per Minute

FORMULA:

$$\frac{\text{Volume (mL)}}{\text{Time (mins)}} \times \text{Drop Factor (gtt/mL)} = \text{IV Flow Rate per Min (gtt/min)}$$

EXAMPLE:

$$\frac{1,000 \text{ mL}}{(8 \text{ hrs} \times 60 \text{ mins})} \times 15 \text{ gtt/mL} = 31.25 \text{ gtt/min}$$
