

DROPS PER MINUTE REFERENCE

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.

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

Information necessary to calculate IV flow rate:

$$\frac{\text{Volume to be Infused (milliliters)}}{\text{Total Infusion Time (hours)}} = \text{Hourly IV Rate}$$

- Volume of fluid to be infused
- Total infusion time
- Drop Factor = Calibration of the administration set used (number of drops per milliliter the tubing delivers; this information is found on the tubing package