

# niCARdipine

BRAND NAME	CARDENE, LOXEN, NICARDIPINE ARROW, HIKMA, MERCURY (ADVANZ)
DRUG CLASS	Antihypertensive, calcium channel blocker
AVAILABILITY	Cardene pre-mixed infusion solution contains 20 mg/200 mL or 40 mg/200 mL of nicardipine hydrochloride in sodium chloride solution. Also contains sorbitol, citric acid anhydrous and sodium hydroxide or hydrochloric acid. <sup>1</sup> The solution is clear and colourless to yellow. <sup>1</sup> Ampoule or vial contains a concentrated solution of 10 mg/10 mL or 25 mg/10 mL of nicardipine. Excipients are different depending on the product sourced, check the product information statement. <sup>2-5</sup> The solution is clear and yellow. <sup>2,4</sup> Available through the Special Access Scheme.
pH	Pre-mixed bag: 3.7–4.7 <sup>1</sup> Concentrated solution (buffered): 3.5 <sup>5</sup>
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Ampoule, vial and pre-mixed bag: store at 25 °C. Protect from light. <sup>1-4</sup> Infusion solution: see the product information for stability. <sup>2-4</sup>
ADMINISTRATION	
<b>IM injection</b>	Not recommended
<b>SUBCUT injection</b>	Not recommended
<b>IV injection</b>	Not recommended
<b>IV infusion</b>	For infusion into a peripheral line use the pre-mixed infusion solution or dilute the ampoule or vial with a compatible fluid to a concentration of 0.1–0.2 mg/mL. <sup>1-4</sup> i.e. dilute 10 mg to 100 mL or 25 mg to 250 mL to make a concentration of 0.1 mg/mL or dilute 10 mg to 50 mL or 50 mg to 250 mL to make a concentration of 0.2 mg/mL. Higher concentrations must be given into a central line. <sup>2,3</sup> Start the infusion at 5 mg/hour. Increase by up to 2.5 mg/hour every 5 minutes for rapid titration or every 15 minutes for gradual titration. The maximum rate is 15 mg/hour. <sup>1-4</sup> Once target is reached, the infusion may be reduced gradually to a maintenance rate of usually 2 to 4 mg/hour. <sup>1-4</sup> Use an infusion pump. A central line is preferred, or use a large peripheral vein and change the infusion site after 12 hours. <sup>1-4</sup> See Special Notes
COMPATIBILITY	
<b>Fluids</b>	Glucose 5% <sup>3-6</sup> , sodium chloride 0.9% <sup>4-6</sup> see Special Notes
<b>Y-site</b>	Amikacin <sup>5</sup> , aztreonam <sup>5</sup> , calcium gluconate <sup>5</sup> , cefazolin <sup>5</sup> , clindamycin <sup>5</sup> , erythromycin <sup>5</sup> , esmolol <sup>5</sup> , fentanyl <sup>5</sup> , gentamicin <sup>5</sup> , hydromorphone <sup>5</sup> , isavuconazole <sup>5</sup> , labetalol <sup>5</sup> , lidocaine <sup>5</sup> , linezolid <sup>5</sup> , magnesium sulfate <sup>5</sup> , metronidazole <sup>5</sup> , potassium chloride <sup>5</sup> , sodium nitroprusside <sup>5</sup> , tobramycin <sup>5</sup> , vancomycin <sup>55</sup>
INCOMPATIBILITY	
<b>Fluids</b>	Hartmann's <sup>2-5</sup> , sodium bicarbonate <sup>2-5</sup>
<b>Drugs</b>	Aciclovir <sup>7</sup> , ampicillin <sup>4</sup> , azithromycin <sup>7</sup> , cefepime <sup>4</sup> , ceftolozane-tazobactam <sup>4</sup> , defibrotide <sup>4</sup> , dexamethasone <sup>7</sup> , ertapenem <sup>7</sup> , fosfocarnet <sup>7</sup> , fosfomycin <sup>7</sup> , furosemide <sup>4</sup> , ganciclovir <sup>7</sup> , imipenem-cilastin <sup>7</sup> , meropenem <sup>7</sup> , micafungin <sup>4</sup> , phenobarbital <sup>7</sup> , piperacillin-tazobactam (EDTA-free) <sup>7</sup> , potassium acetate <sup>7</sup> , sodium bicarbonate <sup>7</sup> , thiopental <sup>7</sup> , tigecycline <sup>7</sup>
SPECIAL NOTES	Continuous cardiac monitoring is required. <sup>1-3</sup> Effect is reduced by 50% within 30 minutes of stopping the infusion. <sup>1,3</sup> There is conflicting information about stability in sodium chloride 0.9% in PVC bags. <sup>1,3-6</sup> Refer to the product information for advice about use of non-PVC equipment.

## REFERENCES

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