

User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines*

THE PERIOPERATIVE STERILE FIELD

To identify contents of containers (syringes and hollowware) on the sterile field in the operating room use

- > labels pre-printed with medicine/fluid name and concentration OR
- > a generic abbreviated container label with medicine and concentration prompts

Pre-printed abbreviated container labels

Use:

- > individual labels
- > a sheet of labels for a perioperative suite
- > a sheet of labels for a specific operating procedure.

Example of a pre-printed label sheet produced to service a perioperative sterile field

Water for Irrigation	0.9% Sodium Chloride	Bupivacaine <input type="text"/>
		Adrenaline <input type="text"/>
Povidone-Iodine Alcoholic 10%	Povidone-Iodine Aqueous 10%	Lactated Ringers Solution
Chlorhexidine 0.5%	Povidone-Iodine Aqueous 5%	Balanced Salt Solution
Hydrogen Peroxide 3%	Methylene Blue 10mg/mL	Adrenaline 1000 microgram/mL
Cefalotin 100mg/mL	Papavarine 12mg/mL	Heparin 1000 units/mL
Gentamicin 40mg/mL	Morphine 10mg/mL	Betamethasone 5.7mg/mL
		Sodium Chloride 0.9%
		Sodium Chloride 0.9%

- > Pre-printed labels include full generic names (except contrast media) and concentration (where specified).
- > Colour coding should follow that of International Standard ISO 26825:2008.
- > Concentration may be pre-printed on local anaesthetic/adrenaline labels or completed at the time of preparation in the space provided with a sterile marker pen

Generic abbreviated container label

Medicine
Conc (units/mL)

Use the generic abbreviated container label when pre-printed labels are not available (requires a sterile marker pen).

All perioperative sterile field abbreviated container labels

- > Adhesive must ensure the label remains attached to the container for the procedure duration
- > Adhesive must allow the label to be completely removed after the procedure when using reusable hollowware containers.
- > Apply away from the pouring spout and avoid graduations.