

National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Medicines, Fluids and Lines*

Pre-printed medicine line label guide

The following **examples** of medicine line labels for dedicated continuous infusion lines represent the majority of medicine line labels. For details on selection and application please refer to details on reverse.

Adrenaline

Vasopressor, Adrenaline

Violet bold reverse plate letters in a black bar on upper half of the label.
Violet on lower half of label
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

aminOPHYLLine

Miscellaneous

B/W, Tall Man lettering

amIODAROne

Miscellaneous

B/W, Tall Man lettering

Atropine

Anticholinergic

Green label with black font
PMS 367 RGB 163.217.99

Cisatracurium

Muscle relaxant

Fluorescent red with black font. Note (d)
PMS 811 RGB 253.121.86

Clonidine

Hypotensive

Violet with white diagonal stripe border
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Dexmedetomidine

Miscellaneous

B/W

Diazepam

Benzodiazepine

Orange label with black font, Tall Man lettering
PMS 151 RGB 255.102.0

Dobutamine

Vasopressor

Violet label with black font
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Dopamine

Vasopressor

Violet label with black font
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Fentanyl

Opioid

Blue label with black font
PMS 297 RGB 133.199.227

Frusemide

Miscellaneous

B/W

Glyceryl trinitrate

Hypotensive

Violet with white diagonal stripe border
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Heparin

Anticoagulant

Teal green label with a 1 to 2mm solid black border
PMS 3255 RGB 71.214.199

Insulin

Miscellaneous /High risk

White label with red font

Isoprenaline

Hypotensive

Violet with white diagonal stripe border
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Ketamine

Induction agent

Yellow label with black font
PMS Process yellow C RGB 255.255.0

Levosimendan

Hypotensive

Violet with white diagonal stripe border
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Lignocaine

Local anaesthetic

Grey label with black font
PMS 401 RGB 194.184.171

Magnesium

Miscellaneous

B/W

Metaraminol

Vasopressor

Violet label with black font
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Midazolam

Benzodiazepine

Orange label with black font
PMS 151 RGB 255.102.0

Milrinone

Hypotensive

Violet with white diagonal stripe border
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Morphine

Opioid

Blue label with black font
PMS 297 RGB 133.199.227

Naloxone

Opioid antagonist

Blue with white diagonal stripe border
PMS 297 RGB 133.199.227

niMODIPine

Hypotensive

Violet with white diagonal stripe border, Tall Man Lettering
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Noradrenaline

Vasopressor

Violet label with black font
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Octreotide

Miscellaneous

B/W

Oxycodone

Opioid

Blue label with black font
PMS 297 RGB 133.199.227

Pancuronium

Muscle relaxant

Fluorescent red with black font. Note (d)
PMS 811 RGB 253.121.86

Potassium chloride

Miscellaneous/High risk

White label with red font

propOFol

Induction agent

Yellow label with black font, Tall Man lettering
PMS Process yellow C RGB 255.255.0

Protamine

Anticoagulant antagonist

Teal green label with a 1 to 2mm diagonal stripe black border
PMS 3255 RGB 71.214.199

Rocuronium

Muscle relaxant

Fluorescent red with black font. Note (d)
PMS 811 RGB 253.121.86

Ropivacaine

Local anaesthetic

Grey label with black font
PMS 401 RGB 194.184.171

Salbutamol

Miscellaneous

B/W

Sodium chloride 0.9%

Miscellaneous

B/W

Sodium chloride 20%

Miscellaneous/High risk

White label with red font

Sodium nitroprusside

Hypotensive

Violet with white diagonal stripe border
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Suxamethonium

Muscle relaxant, Suxamethonium

Fluorescent red bold reverse plate letters in a black bar on upper half of label. Fluorescent red on lower half of label. Note (d)
PMS 811 RGB 253.121.86

Thiopentone

Induction agent

Yellow label with black font
PMS Process yellow RGB C 255.255.0

Urokinase

Anticoagulant

Teal green label with black font
PMS 3255 RGB 71.214.199

Vasopressin

Vasopressor

Violet label with black font
PMS 256 RGB 222.191.217

Vecuronium

Muscle relaxant

Fluorescent red with black font. Note (d)
PMS 811 RGB 253.121.86

NOTES:

- Colours are a guide only and will digitally print according to software used.
- Refer to PMS and RGB code for printed label colour.
- B/W = Black text on white background.
- Use Warm Red or 245.64.41 if printing is difficult.

* To be read in conjunction with National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Medicines, Fluids and Lines (Feb 2014). Copyright the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care 2014

**AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE**

Pre-printed medicine line label guide

Dedicated continuous infusion lines are identified with a route label and a medicine line label.

An evaluation of pre-printed medicine line labels for dedicated continuous infusion lines is on the Commission web site at www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/safer-naming-labelling-and-packaging-of-medicines/user-applied-labelling/

The nationally standard requirement for identifying medicines in dedicated continuous infusion lines is as follows:

- 1) Use a pre-printed medicine line label with the generic name of the medicine or fluid
- 2) In the absence of an established standard for colour coding medicine line labels, and where it is standard practice to apply colour, any colour should comply with ISO 26825:2008 User-applied labels for syringes containing drugs used during anaesthesia (the anaesthetic labelling standard)
- 3) If a medicine is not reflected in the anaesthetic labelling standard, apply colour according to primary therapeutic use rather than pharmacological class
The exceptions are given in (4 and 5)
- 4) High risk medicines that fall in the miscellaneous category should be printed red on white
- 5) Medicines in the anticoagulant/antiplatelet class should be printed black on teal green. Specifically,
 - heparin labels to be black font on teal green (PMS 3255) with a solid black border
 - protamine labels to be black font on teal green (PMS 3255) with a diagonal stripe black border
 - heparinised saline labels to be black font on white with a teal green border (PMS 3255)
- 6) Other medicines in the anaesthetic labelling standard miscellaneous category (such as 0.9% sodium chloride) should be printed black on white
- 7) Size of labels may be determined by the health facility
In the evaluation, line labels were produced in continuous strips (7mm wide)
- 8) Formatting, including font size, may be determined by the health facility
In the evaluation, font size was 8mm allowing a 2mm border either side for printing diversion. The image width varied according to length of medicine name but did not exceed 70mm. The gap between images was 10 to 15 mm printed on continuous tape
- 9) Labels must be produced using material that remains intact for the duration of use
In the evaluation, labels were printed on unplasticised PVC tape with tensile strength > 14.3kg/25mm.
- 10) Labels must be produced with adhesive that ensures the label remains attached to the line for the duration of use.
In the evaluation, label peel adhesive was 600g/25mm (+/- 10%)
- 11) It is recommended that the font used on the medicine line labels use national Tall Man lettering which can be found on the Commission web site at www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/national-tall-man-lettering/
- 12) Use a generic medicine label for infrequently used medicines when a pre-printed label is unavailable.

