# MgSO<sub>4</sub> Dosing and Monitoring Checklist

## PREPARATION OF 4g 20% SOLUTION OF MAGNESIUM SULFATE (MgSO<sub>4</sub>)

- □ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or use alcohol hand rub and air dry.
- Using a 20-mL syringe, draw 12 mL of sterile water for injection. If 50% MgSO<sub>4</sub>. is available, add 8 mL of MgSO<sub>4</sub> 50% solution\* to 12 mL of water for injection to make 20 mL of 20% solution (4 g per 20 mL). If the concentration is different, correctly mix 4 gm of MgSO<sub>4</sub>. \* *vial containing (1 g/2 mL)*

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF LOADING DOSE OF MgSO4**

- Establish an IV line using normal saline or Ringer's lactate solution.
- □ Using a 20 mL syringe, draw 4 g of MgSO<sub>4</sub> 50% (8 mL)
- Add 12 mL sterile water or saline to the same syringe to make a 20% solution
- $\Box$  Give this 4g MgSO<sub>4</sub> 20% solution IV over 5 20 minutes.
- □ Using two 20 mL syringes, draw 5 g of MgSO<sub>4</sub> 50% (10 mL) in EACH syringe.
- Add 1mL of 2% lignocaine to EACH of the two syringes.
- □ Inject 1st syringe by deep IM injection into one buttock (5g MgSO<sub>4</sub>)
- □ Inject 2nd syringe by deep IM injection into the other buttock (5g MgSO<sub>4</sub>)

□ **If convulsions recur** after 5 minutes, give 2 g of MgSO<sub>4</sub> 20% by IV over 5 minutes.

- □ To Decontaminate: Flush needle and syringe with 0.5% chlorine solution three times; then place in a puncture-proof container.
- □ Remove gloves and discard them in a leakproof container or plastic bag.
- □ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

## **MONITORING FOR SIGNS OF TOXICITY**

- $\Box$  Count respiration rate for 1 minute every hour. The rate should be  $\geq$  16.
- □ Patella reflexes should be present. Check every hour:
  - Place one hand under woman's knee and lift leg off bed.
  - Tap patellar tendon just below kneecap with a reflex hammer.
- □ Insert an indwelling urinary catheter and measure urinary output hourly. Output should be  $\ge$  30ml/hour

## ADMINISTRATION OF MAINTENANCE DOSE OF MgSO<sub>4</sub>

- □ Before repeating administration of MgSO<sub>4</sub>, check that:
  - Respiratory rate is at least 16 per minute.
  - Patellar reflexes are present.







- Urinary output is at least 30 mL per hour over 4 hours.
- Give 5 grams of MgSO4 50% solution, together with 1 mL of 2% lignocaine in the same syringe, by deep IM injection into alternate buttocks (every 4 hours).
- □ WITHHOLD or DELAY drug if:
  - Respiratory rate falls below 16 per minute.
  - Patellar reflexes are absent.
  - Urinary output has fallen below 30 mL per hour over the preceding 4 hours.
- □ In case of respiratory arrest:
  - Shout for help!
  - Assist ventilation with mask and bag.
  - Give calcium gluconate 1 g (10 mL of 10% solution) IV slowly.

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