

Memorandum

To: All Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy staff in Acute (except Paediatrics & Obstetrics)
From: Variable Rate Intravenous Insulin Infusion (VRIII) Implementation group
Date: Feb 2019
Re: **New INTRAVENOUS INSULIN prescription chart for ADULT patients: Variable Rate Intravenous Insulin Infusion (VRIII)**

A new GGC-approved VRIII guideline and chart, for ADULT patients, will be introduced across GGC over the month of March. This replaces the 'insulin sliding scale' guideline (and associated charts) and should be used in both medical and surgical patients (excluded patient groups are children, pregnancy, Diabetic Ketoacidosis or Hyperosmolar Hyperglycaemia State).

Aim of the new VRIII 8 page prescription chart is to improve patient safety by providing:

- A single, *standardised* colour chart with an integrated guideline (which includes information on appropriate VRIII IV fluids) and guidance on preparation and administration of insulin infusions
- One central form (click [here](#)) to document all information relating to VRIII prescribing, administration and monitoring.

Education available:

- '[Notes for Nursing Staff](#)' and '[Notes for Prescribers](#)' - a paper copy of each will be included with your initial supply of VRIII charts
- 9 min video (copy and paste this link into a Google Chrome browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OWRkZmb6D4>). All clinical staff are encouraged to view this prior to attending a face to face session
- 30 min drop-in sessions, over the month of March across all sites, will provide the following: hands on experience of the chart, a demonstration of equipment and the opportunity to ask questions. A CPD certificate will be issued to all attendees. Please encourage all clinical (medical, nursing and pharmacy) staff to attend. Click [here](#) for dates, times and venues.

Supply of charts/fluids/giving sets:

- Each clinical area should order one pack (25 charts) using PECOS code GGC0259: high usage areas may wish to order more (max of 3 packs). The chart must not be photocopied.
- Specific IV fluids are recommended with VRIII. Click [here](#) for a list of designated wards with stock
- The Vygon Protect-a-line 2 is the recommended giving set (PECOS code 177073)

Criteria for switching over to the new VRIII chart are:

- Ward has access to: new charts/VRIII IV fluids/giving sets
- Old charts have been removed
- Staff have received education on the new chart (see above)
- 'Notes' for nurses and prescribers are available for ward staff to read

NB: Senior Charge Nurses have been given more detailed information and asked to prepare their clinical area for the switch.

For further information contact either urmila.ratnasabapathy@nhs.net (Chair of VRIII Implementation Group) or lorna.rankine@ggc.scot.nhs.uk (Clinical Governance Pharmacist)