How to prescribe gentamicin

Prescribe gentamicin ‘as charted’. **DO NOT** specify a dose or dose time on the kardex.

Remember to discontinue gentamicin on BOTH the kardex and the chart when the course is complete.

The dose and dose time will be prescribed on the separate gentamicin prescription chart and may vary (see below).

**ADULT PARENTERAL GENTAMICIN (GGC): PRESCRIBING, ADMINISTRATION & MONITORING CHART**

Use for all patients prescribed intravenous gentamicin unless prophylactic indication or synergistic dose (usually in endocarditis) are being used.

**Prescribe each dose individually and DO NOT prescribe >24h in advance.** If the patient requires 48 hourly dosing state ‘no dose required’ on the chart when applicable (see example below). Before re-prescribing: assess if the patient still needs antibiotics and, if so, if they could be switched to oral (refer to IVOST). If gentamicin is still needed check for toxicity and check the medicine kardex in case gentamicin has already been discontinued there. Creatinine (Cr) should be checked daily and the result recorded on the prescribing chart.

**Document: the source of the first dose, the parameters used and the dose calculated.**

**Monitoring Record**

Record all sample dates/times accurately below. See overdraft for monitoring advice.

**Always record on the chart: accurate gentamicin sample times, the results obtained and the action taken.** Gentamicin levels should be checked after the first dose then at least every 2 days.

*Discuss with an infection specialist before continuing onto a second sheet*