Using the Custom Concentration feature to program a PCA infusion
The Alaris® System

Background

- Your hospital may choose to leave an open medication drug entry called a Custom Concentration (_mg/_mL).
- Custom Concentration should only be used when the syringe medication label does not match any drug concentration selection listed on the programming screen.
- Concentration is the drug amount per volume of fluid (the DRUG AMOUNT per DILUENT VOLUME).
- If an error is made when entering DRUG AMOUNT or DILUENT VOLUME, it could result in over- or under-infusion.
- WARNING: Before loading or unloading a syringe, always turn off the fluid flow to the patient using the tubing clamp. Uncontrolled fluid flow can occur when the administration set is not clamped or turned off, which may cause serious injury or death.

Programming steps

Step 1 Review the syringe medication label and select the correct medication on the programming screen.

Step 2

A. If the medication concentration found on the syringe medication label matches a standard concentration listed on the programming screen, select the standard concentration (e.g., 1 mg/mL).

Note: If you have selected a standard concentration, skip the remaining steps and follow normal programming procedures.

B. If the medication concentration found on the syringe medication label does not match any drug concentration listed on the programming screen, select the Custom Concentration option (_mg/_mL).

Step 3 Press the Yes soft key to confirm you have selected a Custom Concentration (_mg/_mL).

Step 4

A. Review the medication label again and program the DRUG AMOUNT and DILUENT VOLUME as indicated on the syringe medication label. For example, a 30 mL syringe with a concentration of 2 mg/mL can be correctly programmed in one of two ways:

Option 1 OR Option 2
DRUG AMOUNT 2 mg DRUG AMOUNT 60 mg
DILUENT VOLUME 1 mL DILUENT VOLUME 30 mL

B. After programming the DRUG AMOUNT and DILUENT VOLUME, verify that the concentration displayed at the bottom of the programming screen is correct (e.g., [conc]: 2 mg/mL).

Alaris PCA module message related to incorrect concentration or dosing

Message

If there is a potential for a programmed custom concentration (_mg/_mL) to result in an excessive volume or dose being delivered, the message to the left appears (See Figure 1).

What to do if this message appears

- Remove the syringe from the Alaris PCA module.
- Verify that the programmed concentration [DRUG AMOUNT and DILUENT VOLUME] matches the concentration listed on the syringe medication label.
- Reload the syringe into the Alaris PCA module.
- Reprogram the infusion.

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