



Heparin (Unfractionated) Protocol – Cardiothoracic (Paper Version)

Communication Orders

- Communication Order MD to Nursing:** Discontinue all prior orders for heparin, enoxaparin, or fondaparinux, except orders for heparin used to maintain parenteral line patency (e.g. heparin-locks). Assess patient periodically for signs of bleeding. Avoid all intramuscular (IM) injections.
- Communication Order MD to Nursing:** Draw a STAT aPTT 6 (six) hours after heparin initiated and 6 (six) hours after any dosage change. Make adjustments according to the nomogram found on heparin order until aPTT is therapeutic (40-60 seconds).
- Communication Order MD to Nursing:** After obtaining 3 consecutive therapeutic measurements, aPTT should be monitored every 24hrs for the remainder of the course of therapy. Document all dosage changes and lab draws as a new order in the patient's medical record.

Patient Care

Prior to Initiation:

- Weight QDay (kg); Baseline Weight: _____ kg

Continuous Infusions

- All calculations shall be made using ACTUAL BODY WEIGHT (kg)
- If patient weight is > 125 kg, consider using lower starting dose per Cardiothoracic team
- heparin in D5W drip, 250 mL, IV, INJ, Titrate, Beginning Dose = 6 units/kg/hr**

Heparin standard concentration is 100 units/mL

NOTE: patient weight > 125 kg, consider using lower starting dose per CT team
Document all dosage changes in eMAR.

Laboratory

Obtain Prior to Heparin Initiation, if not already obtained in past 24 hours

- CBC with Platelet Count, Stat, Baseline prior to heparin infusion
- aPTT, STAT, Baseline prior to heparin infusion

AM Labs

- CBC with Platelet Count, AM Draw, QAM Lab, until end of heparin therapy

Heparin Dosing Nomogram-All calculations shall be made using actual body weight (kg)

aPTT result (seconds)	Adjustment
< 40	Increase infusion by 1 unit/kg/hr
40 - 60	No change
61 - 80	Decrease infusion by 1 unit/kg/hr
> 81	Hold infusion for 30 minutes AND Decrease infusion by 1 unit/kg/hr and page CT team for further instructions

Provider Signature: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ Pager #: _____