



Fluids & Electrolytes

NAPNES Guidelines



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Types of Solutions

- Crystalloids
- Colloids
- Blood products
- Electrolytes





Crystalloids

■ Mechanism of Action

- Supply sodium and water
 - Maintain osmotic gradient
 - Between fluid outside blood vessels and fluid inside blood vessels
 - Expands plasma volume

■ Therapeutic uses

- Maintenance fluids
- Replacement fluids
- Promote urinary flow

Crystalloids

■ Examples

- NS (0.9% sodium chloride)
 - Most commonly used
- Hypertonic saline
- Lactated Ringer's
- D5W
- Plasma-Lyte



Colloids

■ Mechanism of Action

- Fluid is pulled from extravascular space to the intravascular space
 - Thus increasing blood volume
- “Plasma expanders”





Colloids

■ Therapeutic uses

● Severe conditions

- Acute liver failure,
- Acute nephrosis
- Adult respiratory distress syndrome
- Burns
- Cardiopulmonary bypass
- Hypoproteinemia
- DVT reduction
- Renal dialysis
- Shock

Colloids

■ Examples

- Dextran 70
- Dextran 40
- Hetastarch
- 5% albumin
- 25% albumin





Blood Products

■ Mechanism of Action

- Increase plasma volume
 - Same manner as colloids and crystalloids
 - Pulling fluid from extravascular to intravascular space
 - Red blood cells (RBC)
 - Ability to carry oxygen

■ Therapeutic uses

- Refer to table 26-8

Blood Products

■ Examples

- Cryoprecipitate and PPF
- Fresh frozen plasma (FFP)
- Packed red blood cells (PRBCs)
- Whole blood





Electrolytes

■ Potassium

- Most abundant cationic electrolyte inside cells

■ Sodium

- Counterpart to potassium
- Principal cation outside cells

■ Therapeutic uses

- Treatment or prevention of depletion

Nursing process

- Assessment
- Nursing diagnosis
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

