

IV Fluid Therapy for Newborns

Indications to start IV fluids:

- ✓ Birth weight < 1000 grams OR
- ✓ Birth weight > 1000 grams and sick; or Sick Newborn of any birth weight

Indications of sickness: Presence of one of the following

- Fast breathing (RR >60/min)
- Unconscious or Lethargic (no spontaneous movements)
- No feeding or feeding poor after having fed well; or intolerance to gastric feeds
- Abdominal distension and/or vomiting (bilious/bloody)
- Uncontrolled seizures

Less than 1000 grams

More than 1000 grams AND/OR Sick Newborn

Fluids based on day of life*

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Day of Life	Fluid amount (mL/kg/day)	Nature of fluid
1	80	10% dextrose
2	95	10% dextrose
3	110	10% dextrose with sodium 3mmol/kg, potassium 2mmol/kg**
4	125	
5	140	
6	150	
7	150	

Day of Life	Fluid amount (mL/kg/day)	Nature of fluid
1	60	10% dextrose
2	80	10% dextrose
3	100	10% dextrose with sodium 3mmol/kg, potassium 2mmol/kg
4	120	
5	140	
6	150	
7	150	

Reassess after 24-48 hours

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YES

Stable and able to accept oral feeds

NO

YES

Stable and able to accept oral feeds

NO

- ✓ START on enteral feeds 10-15mL/kg/day ,divided 2 hourly
- ✓ Measure abdominal girth

- ✓ Continue i.v. fluids

- ✓ Deduct the same amount from daily IV fluid requirement

- ✓ Increase 20- 30mL/kg/day
- ✓ STOP feeding (bilious/blood-stained gastric aspirate, GRV>25%/ >3mL)***

- ✓ START on enteral feeds 10-15mL/kg/day , divided 3 hourly
- ✓ Measure abdominal girth

- ✓ Continue i.v. fluids

- ✓ Increase to full feeds over 12-24 hours
- ✓ STOP feeding (bilious/ blood-stained gastric aspirate, GRV>25%/ >3mL)***

* DO NOT INCREASE fluid on the next day, if weight gain, tachycardia, oedema feet, puffy eyes, urine output < 1mL/kg/hr

** If the premixed solutions are not available, add normal saline 20 ml/kg to the required volume of 10% dextrose, but infuse only the required daily volume

*** Measure gastric residual volume (GRV) only if there is increase in abdominal girth by 2 cm, above baseline.