

Supply and Storage of Rocuronium

Background

Rocuronium Bromide is a non-depolarising neuromuscular blocker of intermediate duration. It is carried by some BASICS Doctors to enable rapid paralysis, either as part of emergency anaesthesia or to facilitate airway management in the post cardiac arrest patient.

Manufacturer's special precautions for storage

- Storage in a temperate controlled refrigerator as part of an approved 'cold chain': maintain at 2°C - 8°C
- Storage out of the refrigerator:
Rocuronium may also be stored outside of the approved 'cold chain' refrigerator at a temperature of up to 30°C for a maximum 12 weeks, after which it should be discarded. The product should **not** be placed back into the refrigerator, once it has been kept outside. The storage period must not exceed the shelf-life.

Supply & Storage

Rocuronium may be supplied by SWASFT using a L4BASICS form, or from a local pharmacy where agreed by local scheme policy.

At the point of supply to a BASICS Doctor (either from SWASFT or from a Local Pharmacy) a new expiry date MUST be written on each ampoule - this should be 12 weeks from the date of removal from temperature-controlled storage. After 12 weeks it must be destroyed in line with destruction of medicines policy.

Rocuronium MUST NOT BE STORED IN A DOMESTIC FRIDGE.

Once removed from refrigerated storage, ampoules may not be returned to the 'cold chain'.

Record Keeping:

While rocuronium is not a schedule-controlled drug, it is a powerful medicine with the potential for significant harm if misused. For its use in the BASICS setting it must be treated as controlled drug, and:

- Signed in to a personal medicines register on receipt;
- Signed out to a patient when used;
- Signed out for destruction in line with the destruction of expired medicines policy.

Cautions

At temperatures over 30°C the degradation of rocuronium is accelerated. A drugs bag stored in a boot of car may exceed this temperature on a warm day. Where possible drugs bags should be removed from vehicles.

Document details

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Author(s)	Dr S. Scott-Hayward
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