



# Nursing Wit and Wisdom

Inspire and Be Inspired!

EDUCATION ACTION SHEET

## 3 Steps to IV Drips

*"It starts with knowing what situation you are in." Audrey Friedman RN, CLNC*

The trick to starting to learn about IV drip medications is figuring out what kind of situation you are in with your patient. It's easy after that!

EMERGENCY	CRISIS	STABILIZATION
<p><b>GOAL:</b> To perfuse organs quickly. To prevent death.</p> <p><b>SITUATIONS:</b> Any emergency situation that is rapidly decompensating and has the potential to cause death.</p> <p><b>PROCEDURE:</b> Titrate drips quickly and sometimes to the tip of the parameter in order to achieve the desired parameter [vital signs, pulse and perfusion]</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> CORS/CODES, unstable patients Emergency procedures: intubation, central line placement, Post-operative</p>	<p><b>GOAL:</b> To stabilize situations and prevent emergencies or decompensation of situation.</p> <p><b>SITUATIONS:</b> Any situation that is or can become unstable and potentially cause another event [not a code]. Requires frequent assessments and close observations.</p> <p><b>PROCEDURE:</b> Titrate drips within standard medication recommendations to achieve ordered parameters [vital signs or clinical signs].</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Hypertensive crisis Seizures Sepsis</p>	<p><b>GOAL:</b> To continue the recovery without rebounding to an unstable situation.</p> <p><b>SITUATIONS:</b> Any situation that is past the initial unstable event. Becoming stable but not ready to discontinue treatment. Requires frequent assessments and close observation.</p> <p><b>PROCEDURE:</b> Titrate drips slowly to wean medications off. Titrating too fast may cause a rebound effect. May reach titrating plateaus where unable to wean further. Means patient is healing, but still situation is not over and patient continues to require medication.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Sepsis, bleeding, respiratory or cardiac arrest.</p>

**Important Disclaimer:** This is not a step over learning the medications themselves. Remember, your care decisions are based on the knowledge you have and how you use it. The better you understand the medications you are giving, the situation your patient is in and the goals you are trying to achieve, the better decisions you will make. So, now, go study your medications!