**EPOPROSTENOL SODIUM**

**SYNONYMS** Prostacyclin, PGX, PGI₂, prostaglandin I₂

**BRAND NAME** FLOLAN, VELETRI

**DRUG CLASS** Prostacyclin

**AVAILABILITY**

**Flolan** vial contains 500 microgram or 1.5 mg of epoprostenol as epoprostenol sodium. Also contains glycine, sodium chloride, mannitol and sodium hydroxide. Supplied with two 50 mL diluent vials of water for injections, glycine, sodium chloride and sodium hydroxide.¹

**Veletri** vial contains 500 microgram or 1.5 mg of epoprostenol as epoprostenol sodium. Also contains sucrose, L-arginine and sodium hydroxide.²

**pH** Flolan: 10.2–10.8 when reconstituted¹  
Veletri: 10.8–12 when reconstituted²

**PREPARATION**

**Flolan:** reconstitute the vial with 10 mL of the diluent supplied. Shake gently until the powder has dissolved completely. Withdraw all of the contents and inject back into the same diluent vial to make 50 mL of concentrated solution. The concentrated solution can be diluted further if required, using only the diluent provided. Do not use other fluids. The solution must be filtered through a 0.2 or 0.22 micron filter either after reconstitution or during infusion.¹

**Veletri:** reconstitute the vial with 5 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% or water for injections. Further dilute to the final infusion concentration immediately, using the same diluent: dilute 500 microgram to 100 mL to make a concentration of 5000 nanogram/mL, or dilute 1000 microgram to 100 mL to make a concentration of 10 000 nanogram/mL, or dilute 1.5 mg to 100 mL to make a concentration of 15 000 nanogram/mL.² The solution must be filtered through a 0.2 or 0.22 micron filter during infusion.²

**STABILITY**

Vials and diluent: store below 25 °C. Protect from light. Do not freeze.¹

**Flolan** infusion solutions: stable for 24 hours at up to 35 °C or 12 hours at up to 40 °C.¹ If prepared under aseptic conditions solutions are stable for extended periods.¹

**Veletri** infusion solutions: stable in the infusion pump for 24 hours at room temperature and up to 30 °C. If prepared under aseptic conditions solutions are stable for extended periods.² Consult the product information (PI), pharmacist, pharmacy department or medicines information service for more information.

**WARNING**

Epoprostenol is infused continuously through a permanent indwelling central venous catheter via a small, portable infusion pump. Therapy with epoprostenol requires commitment from the patient to sterile drug reconstitution, drug administration, care of the permanent central venous catheter, and access to intense and ongoing patient education.¹,²

Do not stop the infusion suddenly or make large dose changes except in life-threatening situations. Even brief interruptions to the infusion can lead to rapid clinical deterioration and may be fatal.¹,²

Extravasation may cause tissue damage.¹,²

192 Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook 7th Edition June 2018 Update
ADMINISTRATION

**For continuous IV infusion only**

- **Flolan**: infuse the solution through a central venous catheter using a 0.22 or 0.2 micrometre inline filter. A peripheral line may be used temporarily until central access is established.¹
  - Consult the pharmacist, pharmacy department or medicines information service for further information on infusion rates and dilution.¹
- **Veletri**: infuse the solution through a central venous catheter using a 0.22 or 0.2 micrometre inline filter. A peripheral line may be used temporarily until central access is established.² If temporarily using a peripheral line, use a more dilute solution.³
  - Consult the pharmacist, pharmacy department or medicines information service for further information on infusion rates and dilution.²

Both Flolan and Veletri are suitable for self-administration in carefully selected patients. Patients and their carers must receive comprehensive training in preparation of the infusion solution and care of the catheter and pump before being allowed to self-administer epoprostenol.¹,²

Other
- Flolan solution has been given as an inhalation through a nebuliser in ICU patients. Consult the pharmacist, pharmacy department or medicines information service for more information.

COMPATIBILITY

**Fluids**
- **Flolan**: use only the diluent provided¹
- **Veletri**: sodium chloride 0.9%, water for injections²

**Y-site**
- Not recommended

INCOMPATIBILITY

**Fluids**
- **Flolan**: sodium chloride 0.9%¹

**Drugs**
- Do not mix with other drugs.¹,²

SPECIAL NOTES
- Do not flush a lumen containing epoprostenol, as a bolus dose could be fatal.⁴
- May cause tachycardia and hypotension. Monitor heart rate and blood pressure during initiation and dose alterations.¹,²
- Headache, nausea and vomiting occur very commonly during initiation and may be dose-limiting.¹,²
- Anaphylactic reactions have been reported.¹,²

REFERENCES

3. Silverstone Z. Administration of Veletri (epoprostenol) to patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension up to concentrations of 90,000 ng/mL and compatibility of high concentrations of Veletri (epoprostenol) with IV administration equipment parts including different IV access systems. [letter]. Belrose, NSW: Actelion Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd: 20 April 2016.