

A Guide to Parenteral Drugs Affected by Light

Ultraviolet light can cause oxidation, hydrolysis and loss of potency to sensitive meds in solution. This loss can be greatly minimised by protecting from light. Amber glass protection is expensive, foil wrapping is cumbersome and time consuming. Amber Bags offer a fast, cost effective solution. They effectively filter out 96.7% of the rays in the ultraviolet spectrum, providing the required safety.

<u>Generic</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Generic</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Aminophylline	Protect from light during storage	Menadiol Sodium Diphosphate	Store at room temperature. Protect from light.
Amphotericin B	When stored at 2° to 8° C and protected from light, expiration date of 2 years. Light protected aqueous solutions.	Methadone	Manufacturer recommends protection from light.
Chlorpheniramine Maleate	Light sensitive; protect from light discoloration	Morphine Sulphate	Darkens on prolonged exposure to light.
Chlorpromazine HCl	Protect from light or it may discolour. A slight yellow solution does not indicate potency loss. A markedly discoloured solution should be discarded.	Multiple Vitamins	Contain cyanocobalamine, thiamine, pyridoxine, and folic acid. All are light sensitive.
Cisplatin	Solutions should be protected from light.	Naloxine	Protect from light when storing.
Dacarbazine	Solutions are sensitive to light and rapidly photolyse	Neostigmine Methysulphate	Protect from light.
Diazepam	Protect from light	Nitroglycerin	Protect from light
Diazoxide	Darkens on exposure to light and should be protected from light. Darkened solutions may be subpotent and should not be administered.	Nitroprusside Solution	Exposure to light will cause decomposition. Wrap container with opaque material.
Digoxin	Protect from light	Norepinephrine	Gradually darkens on exposure to light.
Diphenhydramine	Protect from light.	Phenylephrine HCl	Protect from light.
Dopamine HCl	Stable for 5 years if protected from light	Phytonadione	Photosensitive. Protect from light at all times.
Doxorubicin HCl	Protect solution from sunlight	Prochlorperazine Edisylate	Protect from light
Doxycycline Hyclate	Infusion solutions should be protected	Promethazine	Protect from light
Droperidol	Intact ampules and vials have an expiration date of 3 years when protected from light	Propranolol HCl	Protect from light.
Epinephrine HCl	Sensitive to light	Streptomycin Sulphate	Exposure to light may cause solution to darken, although colour change does not indicate potency loss.
Flourouracil	Protect from light	Sulfisoxazole Diolamine	Commercially available forms have expiration dates of 2 – 5 years from manufacturer when protected from light.
Folic Acid	Protect from light, Solutions are inactivated by ultraviolet light.	Terbutaline	Protect from light
Furosemide	Exposure to light may cause discolouration. Protect from light.	Testosterone Cypionate	Protect from light
Haloperidol	Protect from light or daylight.	Triflupromazine HCl	Protect from light. Solutions darker than light amber or discoloured in any other way should not be used.
Hydrocortisone	Protect from light after reconstitution.	Vinblastin	Refrigerate. Protect from light.
Isoproterenol	Protect from light. Do not use if brown or if it contains precipitate.	Vincristine Sulphate	Protect from light.
Levarterenol Bitartrate	Will gradually darken on exposure to light.	Vitamin B Complex	Refrigerate. Protect from light.