



October 20, 2025

Dear hospital pharmacists:

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as OPC prepares to implement an updated IV acetylcysteine (NAC) protocol on April 1, 2026. Your engagement and feedback have been invaluable.

Key details of the revised protocol

- 2-step, single-concentration approach using a 3% NAC solution in D5W, ½ NS, or NS
 - Loading dose: 150 mg/kg over 1 hour
 - Maintenance infusion: 15 mg/kg/hour, continued until stopping criteria are met (minimum duration: 12 hours)
- Two administration methods supported by OPC staff
 - 1-bag method: A single admixture providing both the loading dose and maintenance infusion
 - 2-bag method: Separate admixtures for loading and maintenance phases
 - The choice between methods will depend on institutional pump configurations and EMR compatibility
 - Launch date: April 1, 2026

Updates since the summer 2025 communication

1. **Management of Non-Allergic Anaphylactoid Reactions (NAARs)**
If a severe NAAR occurs and NAC therapy remains indicated, stop the loading dose and continue NAC at the maintenance infusion rate. Although the full loading dose may not be delivered, the total NAC administered over 24 hours remains clinically adequate. If the reaction occurs during the maintenance phase, bedside teams should contact OPC for further guidance.
2. **Two-bag method preparation:** For patients weighing 20 kg or less, the loading dose bag volume has been revised to 100 mL (previously 250 mL).

Implementation support activities. Please see our website for more information.

- Train-the-Trainer webinars: December 2025 – January 2026
- Frontline “just-in-time” information sessions: February – March 2026
- Post-implementation feedback sessions: April – June 2026

We appreciate your partnership in ensuring a smooth transition to this updated protocol. Please reach out to OPC with any questions or for additional implementation support.

Sincerely,

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