

Vasopressor & Inotrope Quick Guide

Common ICU vasoactive roles

Fluids & ICU

PHYSICIAN REFERENCE

Norepinephrine

- Usual first-line vasopressor for septic/distributive shock.

Vasopressin

- Common adjunct to norepinephrine in vasodilatory shock.

Dobutamine

- Inotrope considered when low cardiac output with persistent hypoperfusion despite adequate filling pressure/BP.

Safety

- Central access preferred for ongoing high-dose therapy; peripheral initiation can be acceptable with strict site monitoring per protocol.

Clinical safety note

Use this as a memory aid, not a prescription. Verify current guidelines, local protocols, contraindications, renal/hepatic dosing, pregnancy status, interactions and patient-specific factors before treatment.