CALCIUM CHLORIDE (CaCl)

ACTION: Electrolyte

- Increases calcium levels necessary for cardiac contractility.
- Stabilizes the myocardium in hyperkalemia or associated cardiac arrhythmias.

INDICATIONS:

- Hyperkalemia.
- Calcium channel blocker overdose/toxicity.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Use with extreme caution in patients taking digitalis compounds.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Bradycardia and asystole.
- V-Fib.
- Hypotension.
- Nausea and vomiting.

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

⇨ 1g IV/IO may repeat every 5 minutes until ECG changes improve, up to a cumulative amount of 4 g.

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

⇨ 20 mg/kg IV/IO up to 1g per dose over 5 min. May repeat every 5 minutes up to a cumulative amount of 4g.

NOTES:

- Ensure that you have patent IV line as calcium extravasation will cause tissue necrosis.
- Calcium precipitates in IV bag or tubing if mixed with sodium bicarbonate. Thorough 20cc IV/IO flush in between medications.