



Medication Management Standards Newsletter

- Accreditation Canada Survey will take place September 19–23, 2016
- In this issue, we focus on the new High Alert Medication Policy

- The VCH Accreditation Medication Management Standards Advisory Group is working on Accreditation Canada's Medication Management Standards to address improvement opportunities identified from the self assessments surveys conducted during the Spring of 2015.
- These standards focus on the safe and effective management of medications; and address all aspects of the medication use process from selection to patient administration.

HIGH ALERT MEDICATION POLICY

- High Alert medications have an increased risk of causing significant harm when administered in error.
- A comprehensive strategy for the management of High Alert Medications is a Required Organizational Practice.
- ISMP has an extensive list of high risk medications in the acute care setting. A VCH, PHC, PHSA, BCCW interdisciplinary team reviewed the ISMP list and selected medications based on their overall potential to cause patient harm. – see page 2.
- Based on Accreditation Canada requirements, minimum safety activities for storage, prescribing, preparation, and administration were determined.
- Select High Alert medications will require Independent Double Check or Double Check of their preparation and administration. (This will be implemented in August – more information to follow)
- The list of High Alert medications and safety procedures were approved by the VCH-PHC Pharmacy and Therapeutic (P & T) Committee. See VCH-PHC Policy CA_6000

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Prescribing

Pre-printed orders will be developed when appropriate and used to initiate therapy for High Alert Medications.

Storage

Pharmacy will standardize and minimize the strengths/concentrations available.

Medications can be stocked as wardstock on select Regional P&T Committee approved areas only, otherwise provided as a patient specific supply.

Medications stored in an automatic dispensing cabinet (ADC) will have a "High Alert" pop-up requiring acknowledgement of the medication being removed.

Medications stored outside an ADC will have a "High Alert" sticker on the container and product outer packaging.

Pharmacy Preparation

Medications will be provided in ready-to-administer forms whenever possible to minimize compounding on the client service area.

Administration

High Alert Medications for IV infusion will be administered using an infusion pump. When available on the pump, the drug library will be used.

Independent Double Check or Double Check required on select medications will be implemented in August. More information to follow in a companion Clinical Practice Document.

Electronic Reminders

"High Alert Medication" or

"High Alert Medication – Independent Double Check", or

"High Alert Medication – Double Check"

The above reminders will appear in:

- printed MAR
- ADC pop-up
- patient-specific label
- PDTM drug monograph





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VCH-PHC HIGH ALERT MEDICATION LIST

Medications or Routes	Administration*
Miscellaneous	
antineoplastic agents parenteral	Independent double-check
methotrexate oral	Independent double-check
epidural infusions	Double-check
intrathecal medications	Double-check
insulin IV continuous infusions	Double-check
sterile water for injection, in containers of 100 mL or more	
High Dose Format Narcotics	
methadone oral liquid	Double check
Opioids, parenteral vials or ampoules containing <u>more than</u> fentanyl 100 mcg or morphine 15 mg (adults) morphine 2 mg (pediatrics) HYDROmorphine 2 mg	
Concentrated Electrolytes	
calcium salts for injection at concentrations of 10% or above	
magnesium sulfate for injection at concentrations above 20%	
potassium (all salts) for injection at concentrations of 2 mmol/mL or more	
sodium acetate and sodium phosphate for injection at concentrations of 4 mmol/mL or more (of sodium)	
sodium chloride for injection at concentrations above 0.9%	
High Dose Format Heparins	
heparin for injection containing 10,000 units or more per container	
Low molecular weight heparin for injection, multidose vials	

*Independent Double Check or Double Check required on select High Alert Medications will be implemented in August 2016. More information to follow in a companion Clinical Practice Document.