

AC PHARMACY DIRECTIVE	
Title: AC High Risk – High Alert Medications	Number: IV - 20
Effective Date: November 2008	Approved By: Jennifer Cowie, PPL
Revision Date(s):	
Review Date(s): May 2013, Oct 2018	

DIRECTIVE

There will be a defined list of high-risk/high-alert medications available for use at the BC Cancer-Abbotsford site.

Once identified, strategies to reduce the risk of errors associated with these medications can be put into place. Strategies may include improving access to information about these drugs, limiting access to high-risk medications, using auxiliary labels, standardizing orders, storage, preparation, and administration of these medications.¹

Reference to this list will be included in all multidisciplinary orientation checklists

PROCEDURES

1. PPL Pharmacy will review and update the list at the time of any formulary additions/deletions and at least annually
2. Concentrated Calcium and Magnesium injectable solutions will be a personal prescription medication
3. Concentrated Potassium Chloride injectable solutions must be diluted in pharmacy before administration.
4. Storage Label reading: "HIGH ALERT – Double Check" will be placed on containers storing High Alert medications

**BC CANCER-Abbotsford Centre
High-Risk/High-Alert Medications**

Class/Category of Medication	Drug	Location
Adrenergic agonists, IV	EPINEPHrine 1 mg/mL 1 mL amp	Pharmacy, RT, Chemo Room
Adrenergic antagonists, IV	esmolol 10 mg/mL labetolol 5 mg/mL metoprolol 1 mg/mL	Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT
Anesthetic Agents, general, inhaled, IV	lidocaine endotracheal spray propofol 10 mg/mL isoflurane desflurane sevoflurane	Pharmacy, RT, Chemo Room, ACU Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT
Antiarrhythmics, IV	procainamide 100 mg/mL verapamil 2.5 mg/mL	Pharmacy Pharmacy, RT
Antithrombotic agents (anticoagulants), including warfarin, LMWH, IV unfractionated heparin, Factor Xa inhibitors, direct thrombin inhibitors, thrombolytics, glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors	alteplase 2 mg vial heparin 10 u/mL PFS flush	Pharmacy Pharmacy, Chemo Room
Chemotherapeutic agents, parenteral and oral	See BCCA Pharmacy Directive Hazardous Drugs	Pharmacy, RT, Chemo Room
Dextrose, hypertonic 20% or greater	Dextrose 50% PFS	Pharmacy, RT, Chemo Room
insulin, subcutaneous and IV	Insulin human reg 100 u/mL	Pharmacy, RT
Liposomal forms of drugs and conventional counterparts	liposomal doxorubicin DOXOrubicin	Pharmacy Pharmacy
Moderate sedation agents, IV	midazolam 1 mg/mL (2 mL) midazolam 1 mg/mL (10 mL)	Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT
Moderate sedation agents, oral, for children	LORazepam 1 mg SL	Pharmacy, RT, Chemo room

Narcotics/opioids, IV, transdermal, oral	acet/codeine/caff 325/30/30 mg fentaNYL 50 mcg/mL amp HYDROmorphone 2 mg tab HYDROmorphone 2 mg/mL (1 mL) HYDROmorphone 10 mg/mL (1 mL) meperidine 100 mg/mL (1 mL) morphine 5 mg tab morphine 10 mg/mL (1 mL) morphine 50 mg/mL (1 mL) sufentanil 50 mcg/mL	Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy Pharmacy Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy Pharmacy, RT
Neuromuscular blocking agents	rocuronium succinylcholine	Pharmacy, RT Pharmacy, RT
Sterile water for injection, inhalation, and irrigation (excluding pour bottles) in containers of 100 mL or more	sterile water for injection 1000 mL	Pharmacy, RT
Specific Medications		
Magnesium sulfate injection	magnesium 1000 mg/2 mL	Pharmacy
Potassium chloride for injection concentrate	potassium Chloride 20mEq/10 mL vial	Pharmacy

References:

- 1 ISMP's List of High-Alert Medications, ISMP 2008 www.ismp.org
- 2 BCCA Provincial Pharmacy Directive , High-Risk/High-Alert Medications VI-50