



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Health PEI

Performing an Independent Double Check

A safety step for high-alert medications

An **Independent Double Check (IDC)** involves having a **second** healthcare provider **independently** check —*without discussion*— the client's identity, the medication, the concentration, pump programming, and the line attachment before administering it to the client.

Why IDCs Matter?

- Part of a coordinated approach to safe medication use
- High-alert meds can cause serious harm if given incorrectly
- When done correctly, IDCs can catch up to 95% of errors

When to Perform an IDC:

- IDCs are required for **select high-alert medications** before administration by Nursing

Examples include:

- Concentrated Electrolytes
- Insulin Infusions
- Anti-Thrombotics (e.g., Heparin)
- Epidural Infusions
- **Discover a discrepancy during the IDC?** **Stop, reset, & repeat** the IDC until the discrepancy is resolved
- **Working alone?** Do the first check, step away & perform another task, then return and recheck. Medications can also be scheduled during shift changes when help is available
- **Unfamiliar drug or work setting?** An IDC is a safety check to use if you're unfamiliar with a drug or working in a new environment
- **Care transitions?** An IDC should be completed for a continuous infusion at care transitions

Refer to the *IDC for High Alert Medication Policy* for a full list of medications that require an IDC by Nursing before administration. This list is also posted in the Clinical Information System.