

Health PEI High-Alert Medication List

Classes/Categories of Medications*
Anesthetic and sedation agents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhaled: desflorane, halothane, isoflurane, methoxyflurane, sevoflurane • IV: dexmedetomidine, ketamine, propofol
Antithrombotic agents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticoagulants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Injectable: argatroban, dalteparin, danaparoid, enoxaparin, fondaparinux, heparin, tinzaparin ○ Oral anticoagulants: apixaban, dabigatran, edoxaban, rivaroxaban, warfarin • Thrombolytics: alteplase, tenecteplase • Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors: eptifibatid
Electrolyte and related intravenous solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcium (all salts): concentration 10% or greater, and small-volume premixed infusion bags • Magnesium sulfate: concentration greater than 20% • Potassium (all salts): concentration 1 mmol/mL or greater, and small-volume premixed infusion bags • Sodium (acetate and phosphate): concentration 4 mmol/mL or greater • Sodium chloride, hypertonic: concentration greater than 0.9% • Sterile water for injection: 1-litre bags • Dextrose: concentrations greater than 20%
Hazardous Medications (Group 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Health PEI Hazardous Drugs List (from the <i>Health PEI Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs Policy</i>)
Insulin, subcutaneous and IV: all formulations and strengths
Liposomal forms of drugs: amphotericin B liposomal and their conventional counterparts (e.g. amphotericin B, amphotericin B-desoxycholate)
Medications with profound cardiovascular/physiologic effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrenergic agents, IV: DOBUTamine, DOPamine, ePHEDrine, epinephrine, isoproterenol, midodrine, norepinephrine, phenylephrine, salbutamol • Adrenergic antagonists, IV: esmolol, labetalol, metoprolol, phentolamine, propranolol • Antiarrhythmics, IV: adenosine, amiodarone, DilTIAZem, lidocaine, procainamide, verapamil • Inotropic medications, oral and IV: e.g. digoxin, milrinone • Vasodilating medications, IV: epoprostenol, iloprost, nitroprusside • Vasoconstricting medications, IV: vasopressin
Medications for specific circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medications given by the epidural or intrathecal route • Medications known to be absolutely contraindicated in pregnancy: Drugs classified in FDA Pregnancy Category X, methotrexate, valproic acid • Injectable and depot medications with long-acting effects: e.g. depot-progesterone, LHRH/GnRH targeting agents (including leuprolide, goserelin, triptorelin, degarelix, buserelin), long acting injectable antipsychotics (including aripiprazole [Abilify Maintena], flupenthixol [Fluanxol Depot], haloperidol [Haldol LA] paliperidone [Invega Sustenna, Invega Trinza], risperidone [Risperidal Consta], zuclopenthixol [Clopixol Depot])
Neuromuscular blocking agents: cisatracurium, rocuronium, succinylcholine
Opioids (injectable, oral, transdermal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alfentanil, buprenorphine, butorphanol, codeine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, HYDromorphone, meperidine, methadone, morphine, nalbuphine, oxycodone, remifentanil, SUFentanil, tapentadol, tramadol, opium tincture
Parenteral nutrition products

*As new medications within the same High-Alert class or category are brought to market, these medications should also be considered high-alert until such time that the list is updated.

Specific Medications
Acetylcysteine, intravenous, when used as an antidote for acetaminophen overdose
Benzodiazepines, injectable: lorazepam, midazolam
Epinephrine, IM and subcutaneous, and 30 mL injectable and topical vials
Methotrexate, non-oncologic use
Oxytocin and analogues, injectable (e.g., carbetocin, oxytocin)

High-alert medications may cause significant harm when they are administered in error. For this reason, additional safeguards are required to enhance patient safety and reduce patient harm.