

Accreditation: ROP of the Month

Required Organizational Practice: **Managing High-Alert Medications**

WHAT ARE HIGH-ALERT MEDICATIONS?

- Drugs that can cause significant harm to clients if they are administered incorrectly.

AT HEALTH PEI:

- The **High-Alert Medications Policy** includes the organization's list of high-alert medications based on the 2024 Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Canada High-Alert Medications List. Health PEI's **High-Alert Medication List** is posted in medication preparation areas.
- Programmable IV pumps with drug libraries that include limits for dosing and/or infusion volume are used for **high-alert medications**.
- A sub-set of high-alert medications require an **Independent Double Check** when administered by Nursing.
- Stocking of **targeted high-alert medications** is limited in patient care areas.
- Concentration and volume options for high-alert medications are limited and standardized in pharmacy departments and patient care areas.
- **Audits of high-alert medications** in patient services areas and pharmacy departments are conducted. Results are **reviewed by the Medication Management Quality Improvement Team** to inform quality recommendations and improve safety practices.

Examples of High-Alert Medications: anticoagulants, insulins, narcotics, concentrated electrolytes, chemotherapy and neuromuscular blockers

Questions Accreditation Canada Surveyors May Ask Staff:

What are examples of high-alert medications that you administer?

What safety practices are in place on your unit to minimize the risk of high-alert medication errors?