



Accreditation: ROP of the Week

Required Organizational Practice: Concentrated Electrolytes

WHAT ARE CONCENTRATED ELECTROLYTES?

- The availability of concentrated electrolytes is evaluated and limited to ensure that formats with the potential to cause patient safety incidents are not stocked in patient service areas.
- Ensuring that concentrated electrolytes are not stocked in patient service areas can minimize the risk of death or disabling injury associated with these agents.

AT HEALTH PEI:

- There is a provincial **High-Alert Medication Policy** that includes a list and outlines the storage procedure of **concentrated electrolytes**.
- Concentrated electrolytes are not stored in patient service areas (such as units/departments) unless **approval to do so has been granted** by the Provincial Drug & Therapeutics Committee (PD&T). With approval, **limited quantities** are available in patient service areas.
- **Audits of high-alert medications** (which includes concentrated electrolytes) in patient services areas and pharmacy departments are conducted on a regular basis.
- Audit results are **reviewed by the Medication Management Quality Improvement Team** with recommendations being identified and implemented as needed.

High concentrated electrolytes are considered HIGH-ALERT as they have the potential to cause serious harm if administered incorrectly

Questions Accreditation Canada Surveyors May Ask Staff:

Can you name an example of a concentrated electrolyte?

Do you regularly stock high concentrated electrolytes on your unit/department? If so, what is the specific reason for doing so?

What safeguards are in place to minimize the risk of error?