



## Accreditation: ROP of the Week

### Required Organizational Practice: High-Alert Medications

#### WHAT ARE HIGH-ALERT MEDICATIONS?

- A documented and coordinated approach to safely manage high-alert medications is implemented.
- The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Canada has defined lists of high-alert medications for acute care, long term care and ambulatory/community settings.

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

#### AT HEALTH PEI:

- There is a provincial ***High-Alert Medication Policy***.
- Specific high-alert medications that require an independent double check are identified and outlined in the ***Independent Double Check for High Alert Medications Policy***.
- Concentration and volume options for high-alert medications are limited and standardized in patient service areas.
- **Audits of high-alert medications** 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-alert medications have an increased risk of causing significant patient harm if they are administered/used incorrectly**

#### Questions Accreditation Canada Surveyors May Ask Staff:

**Can you list examples of high-alert medications that you administer?**

**How do you access additional information if needed to help safe administration of medication?**

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