



Accreditation: ROP of the Week

Required Organizational Practice: Heparin Safety

WHAT IS HEPARIN SAFETY?

- The availability of heparin products is evaluated and limited to ensure that formats with the potential to cause patient safety incidents are not stocked in patient service areas.

AT HEALTH PEI:

- There is a provincial **High-Alert Medication Policy**.
- **Dalteparin, enoxaparin, and heparin** for subcutaneous injection are supplied to patient service areas in **pre-filled syringes** to limit dosing errors.
- Ward stock heparin is limited to a total dose of less than 10,000 units total per vial.
- An audit of heparin products in patient service areas is completed annually. Audit results are **reviewed by the Medication Management Quality Improvement Team (MMQIT)** with recommendations being identified and implemented as needed.
- The Provincial Drug & Therapeutics (PD&T) Committee approves **limited quantities** of certain heparin products in special circumstances.

Heparin is a **HIGH-ALERT MEDICATION**

Limiting the availability of Heparin and ensuring high dose formats are not stocked in patient service areas helps to minimize risk of patient harm or serious injury

Questions Accreditation Canada Surveyors May Ask Staff:

Are multiple concentrations of heparin stocked in your patient service area/unit?

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

Is there a policy on high-alert medications? Can you show me where you would find this policy?