

# HIGH ALERT MEDICATIONS



## PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE SAFETY STRATEGIES IN PLACE FOR THESE MEDICATIONS.

The medications listed below carry a higher risk for abuse, errors, or other adverse outcomes than other medications. Special processes, as listed below, have been put into place for procuring, storing, ordering, transcribing, preparing, dispensing, administering and/or monitoring these medications.

<b>Chemotherapeutic Agents - Oral</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stored separately in pharmacy.</li><li>• Drugs are transported in plastic bags labeled with sticker indicating CHEMOTHERAPY DRUG.</li></ul>
<b>Oral methotrexate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The only frequency option for oral dosing in order entry system is weekly</li><li>• Verification by pharmacist of appropriate oncologic indication for any daily oral orders</li><li>• Continuous monitoring of all methotrexate oral orders for appropriateness</li></ul>
<b>Insulin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two RNs independently verify type &amp; dose prior to administration.</li><li>• Not to be given by IV push for any indication</li></ul>
<b>U-500 Insulin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pharmacist confirms home dose with patient.</li><li>• Electronic order entries are double checked by another pharmacist or RN.</li><li>• U-500 insulin is stored in the pharmacy.</li><li>• Scheduled doses are drawn up by pharmacy and double checked by 2 licensed personnel prior to dispensing.</li><li>• Documentation log is completed by pharmacist.</li></ul>
<b>Low molecular weight heparin (Lovenox), Factor Xa inhibitors (Arixtra, Xarelto, Eliquis, etc.), direct thrombin inhibitors (Pradaxa), etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nurses and pharmacists verify dose, and that patient is not on another anticoagulant prior to administration.</li><li>• Two RNs independently verify dose prior to administration if the dosing requires manipulation (i.e. drawing up a portion of a vial or giving a portion of a syringe).</li><li>• Pharmacists monitor for appropriate dosing, labs, and prevention of adverse events.</li><li>• Baseline labs should be obtained per policy</li></ul>
<b>Warfarin (Coumadin)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy, protocol, and order sets for dosing and monitoring</li><li>• Pharmacists follow patients daily for dosing, monitoring, prevention of adverse events</li><li>• Pharmacists/nurses provide patient education.</li><li>• Reversal agents and guidelines</li></ul>

Approved by P&T Committee, Medication Safety Taskforce  
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