



HIGH RISK MEDICATIONS



High Risk Medications are defined as those which have a heightened risk of causing significant harm if a drug incident occurs. Although incidents may or may not be more common with these medications, the consequences of an error can be severe.

For all high risk medications;

- Ensure that you are familiar with the drug guideline (where available) before prescribing, dispensing or administering the medication.
- If unsure about their safe use, seek advice from a more experienced colleague.
- Adopt the safest practice possible which may include seeking an independent double check (some medications require double checking as per BHS policy).

High Risk Medication Groups		Specific Medications	
A	Anti-infectives	Amphotericin (intravenous, all forms) Aminoglycosides (e.g. gentamicin) Penicillins (risk of anaphylaxis)	
P	Potassium & other electrolytes	Calcium (chloride & gluconate salts) Magnesium sulphate vials Potassium chloride (intravenous) Potassium acetate Potassium dihydrogen phosphate and dipotassium hydrogen phosphate Sodium chloride greater than 0.9%	
I	Insulin	All insulins	
N	Narcotics and other sedatives	General anaesthetics - ketamine, inhalational general anaesthetics, propofol, thiopental Opioids (all routes) - alfentanil, buprenorphine, codeine, fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, pethidine, remifentanil, tapentadol, tramadol	
C	Chemotherapeutic agents	All anti-cancer therapies, including oral	
H	Heparin & other anticoagulants	Abciximab Apixaban Bivalirudin Dabigatran Dalteparin Danaparoid Enoxaparin	Eptifibatide Fondaparinux Heparin (unfractionated) Rivaroxaban Tirofiban Warfarin
OTHER		Clozapine Neuromuscular blockers	

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