

High Alert Medications Require Independent Double Checks!!

Meds requiring double checks:

- * Chemotherapeutic agents (all dosage forms)
- * Neuromuscular blocking agents, except when an anesthesia provider is responsible for the entire medication use process
- * Investigational drugs
- * Injectable narcotic patient controlled analgesia (PCA) and epidural route
- * Insulin, infusions and IV pushes
- * Injectable potassium chloride concentrate (1mEq/ml and above)
- * Injectable potassium phosphate concentrate (1mEq/ml and above)
- * Injectable sodium chloride solutions above 0.9%
- * Intravenous heparin. Heparin flush if ≥ 100 units/ml
- * Direct thrombin inhibitors (argatroban, bivalirudin, lepirudin)

Double check before medication administration must include:

- * An independent check by two licensed clinicians.
- * Two clinicians separately check (alone and apart from each other, then compare results) each component of prescribing, dispensing and verifying the high-alert medication before administering it to the patient

THIS MEANS

- ◆ THE ORDER IS VERIFIED BY READING IT INDEPENDENTLY
- ◆ THE AMOUNT IS CALCULATED INDEPENDENTLY
- ◆ AND THE PUMP SETTING IS VERIFIED INDEPENDENTLY
- ◆ A RATE VERIFICATION IS TO OCCUR AT SHIFT CHANGE AND DOCUMENTED ON THE MAR (all drips and PCAs)