



Memorandum

From : Chairman
Medication Safety Committee

Our Ref : (39) in PHS 05/32 (IV)

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Date : 22 February 2010

To: CCEs/HCEs

cc. DTC chairmen
Medication Safety Committee members
PSOM members
CCQRM members

Safety Solutions for High Risk Medications (5th series)

Narcotics/opioids

One of the 2008/09 annual plan targets on risk reduction strategies for medication safety is to develop Safety Solutions for High Risk Medications. These medications are having higher risk of causing injury when misused. Errors with these products are not necessarily more common, but the consequences are clearly more devastating.

2. In this respect, the Hospital Authority has compiled a list of High Risk Medications based on the reported local incidents as well as a review of overseas recommendations and alerts. The list has been endorsed by the Central Committee on Quality and Risk Management (CCQRM) and the Directors' Meeting, is appended below for your reference.

	Categories of Medications
1.	concentrated electrolytes
2.	cytotoxic chemotherapy
3.	drugs commonly associated with drug allergies e.g. penicillin, aspirin, NSAIDs
4.	vasopressors and inotropes
5.	anticoagulants including heparin
6.	neuromuscular blocking agents (e.g. atracurium, pancuronium)
7.	oral hypoglycaemics
8.	insulins
9.	narcotics (e.g. fentanyl)/opioids

3. The Safety Solutions are system improvement strategies for minimising risks in the use of high risk medications that supplement the Drug Administration Report 2005. Hospitals are recommended to take reference to the Safety Solutions and are encouraged to implement risk reduction programmes which are appropriate to the local settings.

4. The Safety Solutions issued to date are listed under the Medication Safety Committee of the Pharmacy page in the eKG and can be accessed via:

<http://www.ekg.org.hk/html/gateway/index.htm>

or

http://cpo.home/Files/Safety_solHRM_web.pdf

5. In order to allow sufficient time for hospitals to review and take appropriate actions, the Safety Solutions are intended to be released according to the following schedule:

October 2009	High risk medications categories 1 & 2
November 2009	High risk medications categories 4 & 5
December 2009	Drugs commonly associated with allergy
January 2010	High risk medications category 6
February 2010	High risk medications category 9
March 2010	High risk medications categories 7 & 8

6. For enquires, please contact your cluster representatives of the Medication Safety Committee or Dr. Petty Lee at 3912 1551. We look forward to your continuous support in enhancing medication safety in HA hospitals.



(Dr. Joseph Lui)
Chairman, Medication Safety Committee