

**FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL  
PATIENT CARE SERVICES**



<b>TITLE: High Alert Medications</b>	<b>Policy No.: PCS-06-010</b>
<b>Purpose:</b> To establish safeguards for medications that are considered “High Alert” for patient safety.	<b>Developed Date:</b> 8/05 <b>Review Date:</b> 11/08, 5/09, 12/10, 2/18 <b>Revised Date:</b> 4/07, 2/10, 2/12, 11/13, 2/15, 4/15, 5/15, 11/15, 2/16, 2/19
<b>Policy:</b> Floyd will manage administration of “High Alert” medications according to established standards of practice as outlined within this document to ensure safety of administration.	<b>Review Responsibility:</b> Director of Pharmacy; Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee; Executive VP Chief of Patient Services/CNO; Nursing Leadership; Executive Staff
<b>Reference Standards:</b> MM.01.01.03	

**Procedure:**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>KEY POINTS</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A list of “High Alert” medications will be identified by the organization and reviewed annually by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee for additions and/or deletions.</li> <li>2. The list of “High Alert” medications will be posted on GreenLink (Floyd’s Intranet Site) and available to all employees.</li> <li>3. Alerts are built into the Pharmacy Computer system to flag upon order entry and verification of any “High Alert” medication order.</li> <li>4. Alerts will also be included to print on the MAR for each “High Alert” medication.</li> <li>5. Alerts will be included to print on the labels for each “High Alert” medication.</li> <li>6. Alerts will be included to flag on the Omnicell screen on any of these medications that are stored in the Omnicell cabinet.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This list will be composed of medications determined to be high risk or problem prone at Floyd.</li> <li>2. GreenLink &gt; Clinical Tools &gt; Medication Resources &gt; Floyd Resources &gt; High Alert Medications.</li> <li>3. This will alert the Pharmacy staff that a “High Alert” medication is being used.</li> <li>4. This will alert the Clinical staff that a “High Alert” medication is being used.</li> <li>5. This will alert Pharmacy and Clinical staff that a “High Alert” medication is being used.</li> <li>6. This will alert Nursing staff that a High Alert medication has been selected.</li> </ol>

ACTIONS	KEY POINTS
<p>7. High Alert medications stored as unit stock not in their own specific bins in Omnicell will be stored in “high alert” bins. (i.e. refrigerated items)</p> <p>8. High Alert medications stored in the Pharmacy will be stored in “high alert” bins, segregated, or have a high alert sticker denoting their high alert status.</p> <p>9. High Alert medications that are IV infusions will be built in the Hospira Smart Pump system with “Hard Stop” limits.</p> <p>10. The nurse will take time out to double check with another nurse to independently verify and document drug, dosage, and route before each administration of the following medications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Argatroban</li><li>◆ Chemotherapeutic Medications</li><li>◆ Heparin</li><li>◆ Intrathecal Medications</li><li>◆ Insulin Medications</li></ul>	<p>10. This will ensure that the nurse is placed on high alert in responsiveness for taking the time to verify medications with another nurse to ensure safety in administration.</p> <p><b>Documentation of this double check will be noted on the MAR.</b></p>

## HIGH-ALERT MEDICATIONS

All Chemotherapeutic Agents  
All Epidural and Intrathecal Agents  
Aggrastat  
Andexxa  
Argatroban injection  
Atracurium  
Corvert  
Coumadin  
Eliquis  
Epinephrine injection  
Eptifibatide injection  
Esmolol injection  
Etomidate injection  
Fentanyl Injection (For Epidural, PCA)  
Heparin injection  
Hydromorphone (For Epidural, PCA)  
Hypertonic Sodium Chloride Injection (> 0.9%)  
Insulin injection  
Ketamine  
Lovenox  
Morphine injection (For Epidural, PCA, or Moderate Sedation )  
Meperidine injection (For PCA or Moderate Sedation)  
Norepinephrine injection  
Phenylephrine injection  
Potassium Chloride injection (concentrated vials)  
Potassium Phosphate injection (concentrated vials)  
Pradaxa  
Praxbind  
Savaysa  
Succinylcholine  
Vecuronium  
Xarelto