1. PURPOSE

This policy describes minimum standards to ensure that sites, departments, and areas in Aurora Health Care that handle high risk medications have considered the risk of error associated with their use and have incorporated safeguards to minimize that risk. This policy augments provisions for the management of high alert medications that exist in other Aurora policies.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to Aurora Health Care, Inc. or any entity or facility owned and controlled by Aurora Health Care.

3. DEFINITIONS

High alert medication: a drug that bears a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when used in error.

Independent verification: a procedure in which two individuals (may include a pharmacist, pharmacy technician, nurse, or physician) separately check - alone and apart from each other, then compare results - specified components of a given process.

4. POLICY

4.1 Aurora Health Care will maintain a list of medications (Appendix A) that have been designated as high alert medications within this organization.

4.2 The medication use process within Aurora Health Care will be designed to support the risk reduction strategies listed in Appendix B.

4.3 Aurora’s list of high alert medications and risk reduction strategies will be reviewed no less frequently than every other year.

4.4 Independent verification is required to confirm specified parameters during preparation and/or administration of select high alert medications, as described in Appendix C and Appendix D.

5. PROCEDURE

5.1 Aurora’s list of high alert medications (Appendix A) and risk reduction strategies (appendices B, C, and D) are determined by the Aurora Medication Safety Committee based on national recommendations, review of internal and external event reports, and interdisciplinary feedback.
ADDITIONAL APPENDIX/APPENDICES ASSOCIATED WITH POLICY:

| HIGH ALERT MEDICATIONS LIST: APPENDIX A |
| ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK WITH HIGH ALERT MEDICATIONS: APPENDIX B |
| HIGH ALERT MEDICATIONS REQUIRING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION DURING PREPARATION: APPENDIX C |
| HIGH ALERT MEDICATIONS REQUIRING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION PRIOR TO ADMINISTRATION: APPENDIX D |

CROSS REFERENCES:

- ABBREVIATIONS THAT ARE UNACCEPTABLE FOR MEDICIAL RECORD DOCUMENTATION
- CHEMOTHERAPY BIOThERAPY ADMINISTRATION OF ANTI-CANCER AGENTS
- CHEMOTHERAPY BIOThERAPY ORDERS
- CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE WASTE
- INTRATEHAL/INTRAVENTRICULAR MEDICATION
- LOOK-ALIKE SOUND-ALIKE MEDICATIONS
- MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY
- MEDICATION DISPENSING AUTOMATED DISPENSING CABINETS
- MEDICATION ORDERS
- PAIN MANAGEMENT USING OPIOIDS DELIVERED BY PATIENT CONTROLLED ANALGESIA PCA OR CONTINUOUS INFUSION

REFERENCES:


Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee. Research summary and
recommendations for improving the safe administration of multiple intravenous infusions. June 2015.