



THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

LIST OF HIGH-ALERT MEDICATIONS

High-alert medications are drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing serious patient harm including death when used in error. This list is intended to increase awareness of the potentially devastating consequences of these drugs and to advise of increased care when they are used.

THERAPEUTIC CLASS WITH EXAMPLES
Adrenergic agonists, SC, IV (e.g. adrenaline/epinephrine, noradrenaline/norepinephrine, phenylephrine)
Adrenergic antagonists, IV (e.g. propranolol, labetalol, metoprolol)
Anaesthetic agents, general, inhaled and IV (e.g. propofol, ketamine, isoflurane)
Antiarrhythmics, IV (e.g. lignocaine/lidocaine, amiodarone)
Antithrombotic agents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin, dalteparin, enoxaparin, unfractionated heparin)▪ Direct thrombin inhibitors (e.g. dabigatran)▪ Thrombolytics (e.g. alteplase (t-PA), tenecteplase)
Chemotherapeutic agents, parenteral and oral (e.g. vinCRiStine, vinBLASStine, methotrexate)
Concentrated electrolyte solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Potassium salts, IV (e.g. potassium chloride, potassium phosphate)▪ Sodium chloride, IV, hypertonic, greater than 0.9%▪ Magnesium sulphate, IV, greater than 20%▪ Calcium gluconate, IV, greater than 10%▪ Calcium chloride, IV, greater than 10%
Dextrose, hypertonic, 20% or greater (e.g. 50% dextrose)
Dialysis solutions, peritoneal (e.g. Dianeal®)
Epidural and intrathecal medications
Hypoglycaemics, oral (e.g. gliclazide, glyburide)
Inotropic medications, IV (e.g. digoxin, DOBUTamine, DOPamine, milrinone)
Insulins - subcutaneous and continuous IV infusions (e.g. Novolin/Humulin R, N, insulin glargine, glilusine)
Neuromuscular blocking agents (e.g. pancuronium, cis-atracurium)
Narcotics and Opiates <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ continuous IV infusions, via PCA▪ oral (including liquid concentrates, slow release formulations)
Oxytocin, IV
Parenteral nutrition preparations (e.g. TPN)
Radiocontrast agents, IV (e.g. Ultravist®, Magnevist®)
Sedatives, IV (e.g. midazolam, diazepam)
Sedatives, oral, for children (e.g. chloral hydrate)
Sterile water for injection, inhaled, irrigation in containers of 100mL or more
Vasoactive agents, IV infusions (e.g. vasopressin, nitroglycerin)