

## High-Alert Medication Clinical Practice Standard & List

Date issued: November 15, 2023

**To:** SDO Leadership, Anesthesiology, Clinicians and Pharmacy

**Re:** New Provincial Clinical Practice Standard and List for High-Alert Medications

**From:** Shared Health – Provincial Pharmacy

Dear Colleagues,

The provincially approved **Safety Controls for High-Alert Medications Provincial Clinical Standard** and **Provincial High-Alert Medication List** standardizes the identification, storage, labelling, preparation and administration of High-Alert Medications (HAM) across all Service Delivery Organizations (SDOs).

This evidence-informed clinical standard was developed through extensive stakeholder consultation and a review of existing HAM policies. SDO teams are aligning existing local policies, procedures, and education/training materials to the provincial standard and list.

The standard, provincial HAM list, training resources and webinar lunch and learn dates will be available on the [Shared Health - Health Providers Provincial Clinical Projects, Standards and Guidelines](#) webpage effective **November 15, 2023**. SDO go-live dates vary across the province and are approximate:

CCMB	Late-January 2024	NHR	Mid-December 2023
ERS	Mid-January 2024	PMH	Mid-December 2023
HSC-SH	Mid-January 2024	Southern-SS	Mid-January 2024
IERHA	Late-November 2023	WRHA	Mid-January 2024

SDO HAM implementation teams are helping to implement the clinical standard and HAM list by communicating changes in practice, educating staff, and amending policies as necessary.

SDO and facility leadership may assist implementation by:

- Strongly encouraging clinicians to familiarize themselves with the *Safety Controls for High-Alert Medications Provincial Clinical Standard* and *Provincial High-Alert Medication List*. This includes an awareness of any pertinent changes to policies and procedures.
- Encourage the participation and sharing of education offerings provided by your SDO.
- Share this memo and HAM resources with clinical staff in a widespread manner.
- Hyperlink directly to the [Shared Health - Health Providers Provincial Clinical Projects, Standards and Guidelines](#) webpage as the primary document source.
- Please contact one of your SDO Clinical Change Leads or HAM implementation team representatives as directed by SDO/organizational leadership if there are any questions regarding the provincial clinical standard or list.

We appreciate your support as we move towards evidence-informed practice to optimize the standardization of HAM patient safety in the province.