



Double-Checking High-Alert Medications in LTC

*Based on the Safety Controls for High-Alert Medications
Shared Health Provincial Clinical Standard

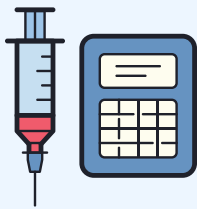


An **Independent Double-Check by Visual Verification** means that a second health care practitioner, in a separate and independent manner from the first health care practitioner:

- ✓ Checks all calculations to prepare a dose of a High-Alert Medication, AND
- ✓ Visually checks the correct preparation process of a High-Alert Medication, AND
- ✓ Visually checks the correct administration of a High-Alert Medication against the MAR



Medication Preparation:



An **independent double-check by visual verification** of the following information is required when a High-Alert Medication is prepared in a resident/client care area:

- Correct medication and concentration
- Correct volume of medication needed
- Correct diluent and volume needed
- Correct volume and concentration of the finished preparation

Medication Administration:

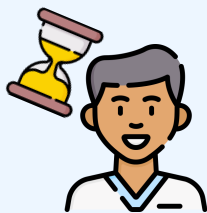
An **independent double-check by visual verification** of the following information, using the Medication Administration Record (MAR), is required prior to administration of a High-Alert Medication:



- Correct resident/client using two identifiers:
 - An independent double-check against the MAR
 - The health care practitioner administering the high-alert medication performs an additional check at the resident
- Correct medication and concentration
- Correct dose for the resident/client
- Correct route of administration
- Correct time

Both health care practitioners sign the MAR to document the double-check

Self-Checking with Time-Out



- When working alone in a facility, the health care practitioner performs the double-check on themselves
- If possible, another unrelated task (a time-out) should be done between doing the initial calculation, medication preparation, and self-checking
- The time-out enables the health care practitioner to perform the final check from a fresh perspective
- The health care practitioner signs the MAR **twice** to document the double-check

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