

MEMO

Date: December 12, 2023

To: All ERS Clinical Staff

From: Shannon Moore, Clinical Change Lead, Shared Health ERS

cc: ERS Executive Leadership Team

Re: **Safety Controls for High-Alert Medication Provincial Clinical Standard and High-Alert Medication List**

The Shared Health Safety Controls for High-Alert Medication Provincial Clinical Standard and High-Alert Medication List is now available on the [Health Providers Provincial Clinical Projects, Standards and Guideline](#) webpage. This clinical standard and list standardizes which medications are considered high-alert, including the clinical practices required for storage, labelling, preparation and administration. The standard and list are in effect and applicable to all provincial clinical areas. Please take the time to review both.

Emergency Response Services is in the process of implementing the clinical standard and list.

Key points for ERS:

- On the attached list, all high-alert medications (HAM) highlighted in yellow are those carried or managed by ERS.
- The Medication “M Documents” in the ERS Care Maps will be updated to reflect these changes.
- When documenting HAM administration, the paramedic who administered the medication and the person who did the independent double-check must sign or initial the PCR. If initials are used, they must identify the paramedic and their designation.
- If a medication label is attached to a medication infusion, the initials of the two paramedics who performed the independent double-check must be captured on the preparation label.

- Relating to both points above, if a paramedic is alone while administering a HAM, the Self-Checking with Time-Out Procedure must be performed (as per the attached standard).
- An operational committee is reviewing storage guidelines for HAMs carried by ERS and will be providing recommendations for change.
- The standard refers to an exception for following the procedure during “emergency situations.” For ERS, this is meant to refer to resuscitation situations only.

Please contact your Clinical Manager/Educator for questions regarding the implementation of the high-alert medication standard.