

1.2.8 Patient Safety Program: High Alert Medications

(a) Policy

California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) Statewide Patient Safety Committee and Systemwide Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee shall maintain a list of High Alert Medications and identify mitigation strategies to prevent patient harm when using High Alert Medications. The High Alert Medication List and mitigation strategies shall be disseminated to all health care staff, implemented when clinically appropriate at applicable institutions, and reviewed and updated at least annually.

(b) Purpose

To ensure the safe and effective use of High Alert Medications and the communication of the High Alert Medication List and mitigation strategies to all health care staff.

(c) Responsibilities

(1) Statewide

The Systemwide P&T Committee Chairperson, in coordination with the Statewide Patient Safety Committee, shall ensure a High Alert Medication List is maintained and that appropriate tools, training, and technical assistance are available to all health care staff to support clinically appropriate use of the list.

(2) Regional

Regional Health Care Executives are responsible for implementation of this policy at the subset of institutions within an assigned region and shall ensure that the High Alert Medications policy, mitigation strategies, and other relevant decision support tools are disseminated and accessible for all health care staff.

(3) Institutional

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementation of this policy at the institution level. Program Leads shall ensure that the institution uses existing forums such as local quality committees to disseminate the High Alert Medications policy and procedure, mitigation strategies, and other relevant decision support tools to all institution health care staff.

(d) Procedure Overview

CCHCS Statewide Patient Safety Committee and P&T Committee shall maintain and disseminate the High Alert Medications List to all health care staff via the CCHCS Lifeline Patient Safety Resources page.

(e) Procedure

- (1) High Alert Medication mitigation strategies are published on the Lifeline Patient Safety Resources page and maintained to provide guidance to health care staff about appropriate handling of High Alert Medications to prevent patient harm and assist in recognition and mitigation of unintended adverse health outcomes from the use of these medications.
- (2) Data shall be drawn from the electronic Health Care Incident Reporting System including, but not limited to, medication errors, current medication usage across the health care system, industry best practices, and community standards (e.g., Institute for Safety Medication Practices, High Alert Medications List for community/ambulatory health care), and relevant clinical information to inform the High Alert Medication List.
- (3) Decision support tools shall be revised or new tools developed to assist Care Teams and other health care staff in identifying and mitigating risks to patients associated with use of medications on the High Alert Medication List (e.g., High Alert Medication mitigation strategies, Patient Summary, Patient Registries, Patient Medication Profile, or Patient Risk Profile).
- (4) Institution staff shall not alter the High Alert Medication List.
- (5) Any recommendation to add or remove a medication from the High Alert Medication List shall be submitted in writing to healthincidentreporting@cdcr.ca.gov with an explanation supported by data and analysis to the CCHCS Statewide Patient Safety Committee and Systemwide P&T Committee.

References

- The Joint Commission, Standard MM.01.01.03
- Institute for Safe Medication Practices (www.ismp.org/resources)

Revision History

Effective: 08/2018