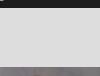


AHC Media

March 22, 2016

# IV Medication & Blood Administration: Did your Hospital get the Memo?

The information provided in AHC Media Webinars does not, and is not intended to constitute medical or legal advice. Opinions, references and links provided by our speakers are provided for your convenience and do not represent our endorsement of such opinions, products or services.



# Speaker

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- AD, BA, BSN, MSN, JD
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- Dublin, Ohio 43017
- 614 791-1468 (Call with questions, No emails)
- [sdill1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:sdill1@columbus.rr.com)
- Email CMS: [hospitalscg@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hospitalscg@cms.hhs.gov)

# Objectives

- Describe the changes CMS has issued to medication administration and safe opioid use.
- Explain the educational requirements for medication administration and safe opioid use.
- Explain new and revised standards, regulations, and laws put forth by CMS, TJC and the federal government.
- Evaluate compliance requirements and penalties.

## Introduction to the CMS Hospital CoPs on IV Medication and Blood and Blood Products



### The Conditions of Participation (CoPs)

- Regulations first published in 1986 and many changes since
  - Revised section on IV and blood transfusions published advanced memo in March 14, 2014 and finalized June 6, 2014 and amended November 20, 2015 and many hospitals are still struggling with compliance
- First regulations are published in the **Federal Register** then CMS publishes the **Interpretive Guidelines** and some have **survey procedures**<sup>2</sup>
  - Hospitals should check this website once a month for changes

<sup>1</sup>[www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html) <sup>2</sup>[www.cms.hhs.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/PMSR/list.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/PMSR/list.asp)

### Location of CMS Hospital CoP Manuals

<b>Medicare State Operations Manual</b>		
<b>Appendix</b>		
<b>Email CMS:</b> <a href="mailto:hospitalscg@cms.hhs.gov">hospitalscg@cms.hhs.gov</a>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Appendix is a separate file that can be accessed directly from the SOM Appendices Table of Contents, as applicable.</li> <li>• The appendices are in PDF format, which is the format generally used in the IOM to display files. Click on the red button in the 'Download' column to see any available file in PDF.</li> <li>• To return to this page after opening a PDF file on your desktop, use the browser "back" button. This is because closing the file usually will also close most browsers</li> </ul>		
CMS Hospital CoP Manuals <b>new address</b> <a href="http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107_Appendixtoc.pdf">www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107_Appendixtoc.pdf</a>		
<small>App. No.</small>	<small>Description</small>	<small>PDF File</small>
A	Hospitals	<a href="#">2,185 KB</a>
AA	Psychiatric Hospitals	<a href="#">606 KB</a>

## CoP Manual Also Called SOM

**State Operations Manual**  
Appendix A - Survey Protocol,  
Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals

Table of Contents  
(Rev. 151, 11-20-15)

[www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107\\_Appendixtoc.p](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107_Appendixtoc.p)

**Transmittals for Appendix A**

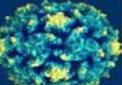
**Survey Protocol**

**Introduction**

- Task 1 – Off-Site Survey Preparation
- Task 2 – Entrance Activities
- Task 3 – Information Gathering/Investigation
- Task 4 – Preliminary Decision Making and Analysis of Findings
- Task 5 – Exit Conference
- Task 6 – Post-Survey Activities

**Psychiatric Hospital Survey Module**  
**Psychiatric Unit Survey Module**  
**Rehabilitation Hospital Survey Module**  
**Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit Survey Module**  
**Hospital Swing-Bed Survey Module**

**Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines**



## CMS Survey and Certification Website

**CMS.gov**  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Home | About CMS | Careers | Newsroom | FAQ | Archive | Share | Help | Print | Search

Learn about your healthcare options

Policy & Memos to States and Regions

CMS Home > Medicare > Survey & Certification - General Information > Policy & Memos to States and Regions

**Policy & Memos to States and Regions**

CMS Survey and Certification memoranda, guidance, clarifications and instructions to State Survey Agencies and CMS Regional Offices.

[www.cms.gov/SurveyCertificationGentInfo/PMSR/list.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.gov/SurveyCertificationGentInfo/PMSR/list.asp#TopOfPage)

Select From The Following Options:

Show all items

Show only items where:  is within the past

Show only items where Fiscal Year is:

Show only items containing the following word:

Show Items

There are 455 items in this list.

Show entries:	10		
Filter On:			
Title	Memo #	Posting Date	iscal Year
Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Recertification Checklist for Evaluation of Compliance with the Location and Distance Requirements	16-00-CAH	2016-02-12	2016
EY 2015 Report to Congress (RTC): Review of Medicare's Program Oversight of Accrediting Organizations (AOs) and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) Validation Program	16-07-AO	2016-01-29	2016
Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Infection Control Courses	16-05-ALL	2016-01-22	2016
Infection Control Pilot Project	16-05-ALL	2015-12-23	2016
Focused Dementia Care Survey Tools	16-04-NH	2015-11-27	2016
Release of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Core Survey Data Worksheet	16-03-ESRD	2015-11-20	2016
Advanced Notification: Revisions to State Operations Manual (SOM), Appendix C – Survey Procedures and Interpretive Guidelines for Laboratories and Laboratory Services	16-02-CLIA	2015-11-06	2016
Revised Hospital Guidance for Pharmaceutical Services and Expanded Guidance Related to Compounding of Medications	16-01-Hospital	2015-10-30	2016
Home Health Agency (HHA) Survey Protocol Training Item Revised	52-HHA	2015-09-11	2015
Revised Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) Training Process and Clarification of QIS Data Collection	15-50-NH	2015-08-28	2015

## IV Medication and Blood

- CMS issues an advanced 32 page memo on March 14, 2014
- CMS updates manual and makes it final on June 6, 2014 and issues final transmittal
- Amended Tag 405 on November 20, 2015
  - Addresses medication administration, safe opioid use, IV medications and blood transfusion
  - Must have a P&P
  - Must train staff
  - Must document process
  - Questions to [hospitalscg@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hospitalscg@cms.hhs.gov)

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## CMS Memo Med & Safe Opioid Use

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mailbox C2-2146  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-3356

**CMS**  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

**DATE:** March 14, 2014      **Ref:** S&C 14-15-Hospital

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director, Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** Requirements for Hospital Medication Administration, Particularly Intravenous (IV) Medications and Post-Operative Care of Patients Receiving IV Opioids

**Memorandum Summary**

• **Medication Administration:** We are updating our guidance for the hospital medication administration requirements to:

- Make clear that the medication administration requirements under the nursing services CoPs of part 405 of the CoPs are related to only those aspects of the hospital medication process that are expected, through this and the related requirements under the pharmaceutical services and quality assessment performance standards (PAPS), to be provided by the hospital medication process;
- Update our guidance for IV medications and blood transfusions, in general; and
- Reflect the need for patient risk assessment and appropriate monitoring during and after medication administration, particularly for post-operative patients receiving IV opioid medications.

• **Immediate Postoperative Care:** Clarification is also being made to the guidance for the surgical services CoP requirement for hospitals to have adequate provisions for immediate post-operative care, to emphasize the need for postoperative monitoring of patients.

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## IV Medication, Blood, Safe Opioid Use

**State Operations Manual**  
**Appendix A - Survey Protocol,**  
**Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals**

Table of Contents  
(Rev. 116, 06-06-14)

**Transmittals for Appendix A**

Survey Protocol

**Introduction**

Task 1 - Off-Site Survey Preparation      [www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107\\_Appendixtoc.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107_Appendixtoc.pdf)  
 Task 2 - Entrance Activities  
 Task 3 - Information Gathering/Investigation  
 Task 4 - Preliminary Decision Making and Analysis of Findings  
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 Task 6 - Post-Survey Activities

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## Final Transmittal Issued June 6, 2014

**CMS Manual System** Department of Health & Human Services  
Pub. 100-07STATE Operations Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)  
Provider Certification Transmittal 116 Date: June 6, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Revised State Operations Manual (SOMA), Appendix A, Survey Protocol, Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals.

**I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** Clarification is provided for various provisions of 42 CFR 423.101(b)(1) through 423.101(b)(3), concerning post-operative patient care.

**NEW/REVISED MATERIAL - EFFECTIVE DATE: June 6, 2014 IMPLEMENTATION DATE: June 6, 2014**

The revision date and transmittal number apply to the red italicized material only. Any other sections and material was previously published and contains the most recent information. For the complete Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads, go to [www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Interpretive-Guidelines-for-Hospitals/Appendix-Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/ads/R116SOMA.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Interpretive-Guidelines-for-Hospitals/Appendix-Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/ads/R116SOMA.pdf).

**II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N = If manual not updated, (R = REVISED, S = NEW, D = DELETED) - (Only One Per Item)**

REND	CHAPTER/SECTION/SUBSECTION/TITLE
R	Appendix A/Survey Protocol, Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals/A-0405/[§482.23(c)]Standards: Preparation and Administration of Medications
R	Appendix A/Survey Protocol, Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals/A-0405/[§482.23(c)]Standards: Preparation and Administration of Medications must be administered in accordance with State law and approved medical orders.
R	Appendix A/Survey Protocol, Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals/A-0405/[§482.23(c)]The hospital may allow a patient (or his or her responsible person) to self-administer medications brought to the hospital by the patient or family member. The hospital must have adequate procedures for issued medications and the patient's own medications brought into the hospital, as well as for self-administration.
R	Appendix A/Survey Protocol, Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals/A-0405/[§482.23(c)]These must be adequate provisions for immediate post-operative care.

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## Amended Tag 405 Nov 29, 2015

**State Operations Manual**  
Appendix A - Survey Protocol,  
Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals

Table of Contents  
(Rev. 151, 11-20-15) [www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107\\_Appendixtoc.p](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/som107_Appendixtoc.p)

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**Hospital Swing-Bed Survey Module**

**Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines**

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## ISMP IV Push Medication Guidelines

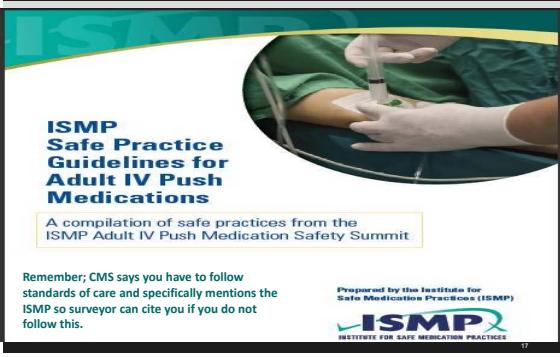


## ISMP IV Push Medications Guidelines

- ISMP has published a 26 page document called "ISMP Safe Practice Guidelines for Adult IV Push Medications"
  - The document is organized into factors that increase the risk of IV push medications in adults,
    - Current practices with IV injectible medications
    - Developing consensus guidelines for adult IV push medication and
    - Safe practice guidelines
    - About 90% of all hospitalized patients have some form of infusion therapy

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## IV Push Medicine Guidelines



## IV Push Medications Guidelines

- Provide IV push medications in a ready to administer form
  - Use only commercially available or pharmacy prepared prefilled syringes of IV solutions to flush and lock vascular access devices
  - If available in a single dose vial then need to buy in single dose vial
  - Aseptic technique should be used when preparing and administering IV medication
    - This includes hand hygiene before and after administration

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## IV Push Medications Guidelines

- The diaphragm on the vial should be disinfected even if newly opened
  - The top should be cleaned using friction and a sterile 70% isopropyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, iodophor, or other approved antiseptic swab for at least ten seconds to it dry
  - Medication from glass ampules should be used with a filter needle unless the specific drug precludes this
- Medication should only be diluted when recommended by the manufacturer or in accordance with evidence based practice or approved hospital policies

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## IV Push Medications Guidelines

- If IV push medication needs to be diluted or reconstituted these should be performed in a clean, uncluttered, and separate location
- Medication should not be withdrawn from a commercially available, cartridge type syringe into another syringe for administration
- It is also important that medication not be drawn up into the commercially prepared and prefilled 0.9% saline flushes
  - These are to flush an IV line and are not approved to use to dilute medication

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### 3.6 Do NOT dilute or reconstitute IV push medications by drawing up the contents into a commercially-available, prefilled flush syringe of 0.9% sodium chloride.

*Discussion:* Commercially available prefilled syringes of saline and heparin are regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration as devices, not as medications. These devices have been approved for the flushing of vascular access devices, but have NOT been approved for the reconstitution, dilution, and/or subsequent administration of IV push medications. Such use would be considered "off label" and not how manufacturers intended these products to be used, nor have prefilled flush syringes been tested for product safety when used in this manner.

Warnings intended to limit the use of prefilled syringes for medication preparation and administration appear on some syringe barrels, clearly stating "IV flush only." Some manufacturers have also limited or removed the gradation markings on the prefilled flush syringes in order to prevent measurement of a secondary medication in the flush syringes. When prefilled syringes are used in an off-label manner, the practitioner and employer bear the legal liability for any adverse events occurring from this practice.<sup>21</sup>

The mislabeling that occurs when medications are added to a prefilled syringe and a secondary label is not applied creates significant risk for errors. In many cases, the manufacturer's label is permanently affixed to the syringe barrel and contains product codes and a barcode as well as specific information about the fluid and its volume. When another medication is added to this syringe, there is no adequate method to amend the manufacturer's label, without covering the current information.<sup>22</sup> Thus, the syringe frequently remains labeled as 0.9% sodium chloride, when it also contains the diluted or reconstituted medication.

Although this unsafe practice is widespread, and many who use it mistakenly believe the risk of an error is insignificant—a belief clearly reinforced during public comment regarding this guidance statement—summit participants arrived at a consensus that the practice must be eliminated.

### 3.7 When preparing to administer more than one medication in a single syringe for IV push administration

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## IV Push Medications Guidelines

- Combination of more than one medication in a single syringe is seldom necessary and could result in unwanted changes in the medication
- Never use IV solution or mini bags as a common source to flush an IV as to dilute for more than one patient
- Label syringes of IVP medication unless prepared and immediately given with no break
- Administer IV push medication at rate recommended by manufacturer or supported by evidenced based practices and often given too fast

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## Safe Injection Practices



**Unsafe Injection Practices and Disease Transmission**

Reuse of syringes combined with the use of single-dose vials for multiple patients undergoing anesthesia can transmit infectious diseases. The syringe does not have to be used on multiple patients for this to occur.

Source: [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org)

CDC

## Safe Injection Practices

- Every hospital should have a policy on safe injection practices
- All staff should be trained on the policy including physicians and mid level providers
- Information should be included in orientation and periodically during skills lab or annual training
- CMS has a section on safe injection practices in the Infection Control worksheet
- CMS has issued a survey memo on this
- CDC has 10 safe injection practices

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## CMS Memo Safe Injection Practices

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20857  
Telephone: 202-601-5020



Office of Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 12-35-ALL

**DATE:** June 15, 2012      **TO:** State Survey Agency Directors      [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/index.html](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/index.html)  
**FROM:** Director, Survey and Certification Group      [Survey.CertificationGenInfo@CMS.HHS.GOV](mailto:Survey.CertificationGenInfo@CMS.HHS.GOV)  
**SUBJECT:** Safe Use of Single Dose/Single Use Medications (SDVs) [Redacted] Survey Certification GenInfo/RMSR/inst.asp

### Memorandum Summary

- **Under certain conditions, it is permissible to repackaging SDVs into vials or single use containers for single patient use.** The United States Pharmacopeia (USP) has established standards for compounding which, to the extent such practices are also subject to regulation under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA), are also subject to regulation under 955.01 and 502 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA). These USP compounding standards include USP General Chapter 797, *Pharmaceutical Compounding - General Practice* (USP <797>). Under USP <797>, a licensed healthcare facility may repackage SDVs into smaller doses, each intended for use with one patient. Among other things, the following must occur:
  - The facility doing the repackaging must use qualified, trained personnel to do so, under International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Class 5 air quality conditions with respect to the handling of the medication. The repackaging must be completed under these conditions must be completed within 6 hours of the initial needle puncture with respect to the handling of the medication. The facility must assign and label each dose with a unique identifier and a date/time of preparation. A copy of the prescription or risk level in accordance with USP <797>, by the licensed healthcare professional supervising the repackaging process.

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## CMS Worksheet Safe Injection Practices

### Section 2.B. Injection Practices and Sharps Safety (Medications and Infusates)

Comments (if applicable)	Surveyor Initials	Surveyor Notes	Surveyor Initials
Injectors are given and sharp safety is managed in a manner consistent with hospital infection control policies and procedures to maximize the prevention of infection & communicable disease including the following:			
Sharps safety devices and needles should be assessed through observation in the separate patient care areas or settings of the hospital.			
2.B.1. Injectors are prepared using aseptic technique in an area that has been cleaned and is free of contamination (e.g., visible blood, or bodily fluids).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe
2.B.2. Needles are used for only one patient.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe
2.B.3. Syringes are used for only one patient (this includes manufactured prefilled syringes).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe
2.B.4. Insulin pens are used for only one patient.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to observe
2.B.5. The rubber septum on all medication vials, whether unopened or previously accessed, is disinfected with alcohol.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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## CDC Preventing Unsafe Injection Practices

www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/unsafePractices.html

**Injection Safety**

**Safe Injection Practices**

**Contact Us:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
800-CDC-INFO  
(800) 232-4358  
CDCINFO@CDC.GOV

## Safe Injection Practices

- If they make it in a single dose then you need to buy it in a single dose
- If they only make it in a multi-dose vial then try and use it only one patient
- Do not take the multi-dose vial into the patient rooms or into the OR
- Mark on the multi-dose that it expires in 28 days unless sooner by the manufacturer
- Clean off the top even if new since lid is just a dust cover

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## Safe Injection Practices

- Follow the CDC 10 safe injection practices
- Hand hygiene before starting an IV or giving an injection
- One needle and one syringe per patient
- Insulin pens are only for one patient
- IV bags and tubing is only for one patient
- Make sure sharps container is not past the fill line
- Wear a mask when putting in an epidural or spinal or doing a LP

30

A photograph of a healthcare professional, likely a nurse or physician, wearing a blue surgical mask and a matching blue surgical cap. They are holding a clear plastic syringe with a blue liquid inside, possibly medication or contrast dye. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be medical equipment or supplies.

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## Safe Injection Practices

- Do not administer medications from single dose vials to multiple patients or combine left over contents for later use
- Pre-spiking of IV fluid is limited to **one hour**
- Pre-filled medication syringes should never be used on more than one patient
- A needle or other device should never be left inserted into a medication vial septum for multiple uses
  - This provides a direct route for microorganisms to enter the vial and contaminate the fluid

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# Not All Vials Are Created Equal

## SINGLE-DOSE OR MULTI-DOSE?

**NOT ALL VIALS ARE CREATED EQUAL.**

Dozens of recent outbreaks have been associated with recall of single-dose vials due to multiple-dose vials. As a result of these incidents, patients have suffered significant harm, including death. CDC and the One & Only Campaign urge health care providers to learn the key differences between single-dose and multiple-dose vials and to understand appropriate use of each container type.

This information can literally save a life.



ONE NEEDLE,  
ONE SYRINGE,  
**ONLY ONE TIME.**

Safe Injection Practices Coalition  
www.safesyringe.org

CDC/AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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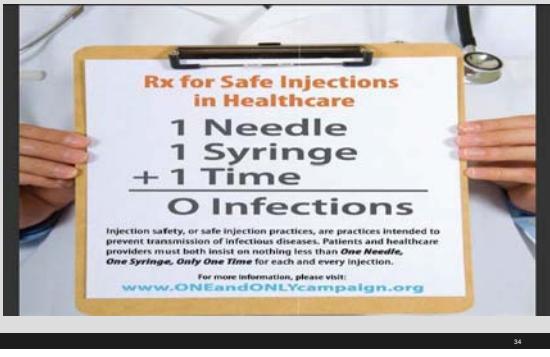
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## Safe Injection Practices Posters



## Introduction to CMS CoPs on IV Medication



## IV Medication & Transfusions

- CMS has pharmacy standards that impact nursing practice
  - Pharmacy section at tag **489-511** and 10 of 18 tag numbers rewritten November 20, 2015
- CMS wanted to make it clear that medication administration under nursing are only some of the ones that impact the overall medication process
- CMS states that the **pharmacy standards** and **QAPI** CoPs also impact medication administration, IV, blood administration and that nursing should be aware of this

## Medication and Safe Opioid Use

- This memo updates the CMS guidance for IV medications and blood transfusions
- CMS also said the purpose of the memo was to reflect the need for patient risk assessment and appropriate monitoring during and after medication administration
  - Particularly for post-operative patients receiving IV opioid medications, in order to prevent adverse events
- So this is all about **medication administration** and **safe opioid use**
- CMS discusses the HHS National Action Plan for ADR Prevention

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## National Action Plan for ADR Prevention

Opioids One of 3 Most Common Errors




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## National Action Plan for ADR Prevention

- Hospital ADEs prolong the length of stay from 1.7 to 4.6 days
- HHS selected anticoagulants, diabetic medication, and opioid finding they are the most common medication errors
- CMS and HHS said also clinically significant, preventable, measureable, and therefore high-priority targets of the Action Plan
- Hospitals should review this action plan and consider these areas in their efforts to reduce medication errors and ADEs

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**National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention**

<http://health.gov/hcq/pdfs/ADE-Action-Plan-508c.pdf>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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### National Action Plan for ADR Prevention

- ADEs are an estimated one-third of all hospital adverse events
- ADEs account for over 3.5 million physician office visits and one million ED visits and 125,000 hospitalizations
- Looks at 3 common high alert and priority ADRs: **anticoagulants, diabetes agents, and opioids**
- Hospitals can expect an increase focus in the future of these 3 areas by CMS
- Final plan published Oct 30, 2014

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## Opioids Section 7

**SECTION 7 Opioids**

**Magnitude of the Problem**

Prescription opioids are commonly used to treat acute and malignant pain, and, over the last decade, have increasingly been used in the management of chronic pain. Acute and chronic pain affect many Americans every year. Chronic pain alone is reported by more than 100 million Americans annually, with pain affecting more Americans than diabetes, heart disease, and cancer combined [1]. The annual costs of chronic pain, including medical costs of pain care and the economic costs related to disability days, lost wages, and lost productivity, range from \$560 billion to \$635 billion (in 2010 dollars) [1]. Although opioids are an essential tool for the treatment and management of acute, postoperative, and procedural pain, as well as for chronic pain related to cancer in the palliative care setting [1], use of opioids for chronic pain is more controversial because of the limited evidence surrounding the safety and efficacy of long-term opioid use for chronic pain [2]. Nevertheless, clinical practice guidelines recommend judicious use of opioids in appropriately selected and monitored patients [3].

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## Section 7 Opioids

- States chronic pain is reported by more than 100 million Americans annually
  - Use has increased dramatically over the last decade with 201.5 million scripts in 2009
  - Cost of this is \$8.4 billion in 2010
  - Cause many ADEs; over sedation, respiratory depression, nausea, vomiting, GI problems, pruritus, immunological and hormonal dysfunction, and constipation
    - CDC identified 16,651 deaths from opioids in 2010 and 420,000 ED visits in 2011

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## Section 7 Opioids

- Abuse is not addressed in the plan but mentions is a current target of the CDC, DEA, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
  - Challenging to identify patients who drift from therapeutic use to misuse or abuse
  - Includes a list of surveillance systems that monitor this and collect data on ADEs
  - No outcome or process indicators on this

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**Figure 19. Federal Interagency Workgroup Recommendations for Actions That Can Potentially Advance Surveillance Strategies for Opioid ADEs**

### *Actions That Can Potentially Advance Surveillance Strategies for Opioid ADEs*

- Determine the adequacy of diagnostic and procedural coding for capturing opioid-related overdose events.
    - Assess specificity, sensitivity, PPV, and NPV of ICD and CPT codes for capturing opioid-related overdose events.
    - Develop, assess, and validate novel measures for identifying and recording opioid ADEs (outlined in Table 15).
  - Address strengths and limitations of using process measures to identify opioid ADEs.
  - Study associations between process measures and risk of opioid ADEs in inpatient and outpatient settings.
  - Improve access to more integrated EHR data with linked pharmacy and outcomes data.
  - Identify appropriate ADE surveillance metrics for opioid ADEs in inpatient and outpatient settings.
  - Develop better surveillance definitions for opioid-related overdose events.
    - Clarify criteria for identifying opioid ADEs that occur in the normal course of care versus those arising as a result of opioid misuse and abuse.
  - Identify appropriate ADE surveillance metrics for opioid ADEs.
  - Improve the capabilities and use of PDMPs.
    - Promote increased use of PDPM systems by providers.
    - Maintain funding for PDPM development at the State and Federal level.
    - Strive for real-time data reporting and cross-setting interoperability for PDPMs.

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**Figure 20. Federal Assets Related to Safe Management of Opioid Therapy, as Identified by the National Quality Strategy Priorities**

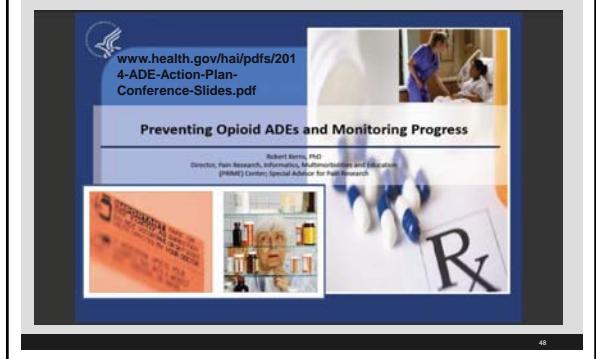
Resources for Safer Care—Health Care Provider Knowledge	
DOD/VA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opioid Prescribing Protocol/Guidelines—Includes recommendations for assessing patients for appropriate pain therapy.</li> </ul>
Education opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider education Web portal [Talent Management System (TMS)] offers several continuing education courses on pain management, including a course on “Opioid Therapy for Acute and Chronic Pain.”</li> </ul>
Opioid Safe Program at Womack Army Medical Center (Fort Bragg, North Carolina)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary care clinicians provide high-risk patients prescribed opioids with kits containing naloxone, along with training in identifying and responding to overdose symptoms.</li> </ul>
FDA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS)—Required strategy for extended-release and long-acting opioids; FDA developed a <i>Blueprint for Prescriber Education for Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics</i> and maintains a list of compliant continuing education (CE) programs for prescribers that include this curriculum.</li> <li>Opioid Dose Conversion Table—Safe and reliable dose conversion table is based on updated evidence.</li> </ul>
IHS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TeleBehavioral Health Center of Excellence Pain and Addictions course—15-series Webinar training program provides specialized training on how to treat pain and addictions.</li> <li>“Pain Champion” Training—63-hour CE course trains local and regional experts, using the Project ECHO Model, which shares expertise by utilizing telehealth technology to connect an ECHO Team (primary care, specialists, and other providers integral to a patient-centered medical home team) to providers in rural and underserved locations.</li> </ul>
NIH:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIDAMED Physician Education Tools—The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) created online tools and resources for medical professionals on safe pain management, including two classes entitled “Safe Prescribing for Pain” (2 CME/CE credits) and “Managing Pain Patients Who Abuse Rx Drugs” (1.75 CME/CE credits). <a href="http://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed/physician-ed-tools">www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed/physician-ed-tools</a></li> </ul>

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Safer Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand dissemination of evidence-based opioid guidelines/protocols (e.g., dosing changes, management of high-risk individuals)</li> </ul>
Patient and Family Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote patient education to improve the safety of care transition</li> </ul>
Effective Communication and Coordination of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop more optimal and integrated health IT opioid management tools</li> <li>Coordinate care through practices such as medication reconciliation and discharge counseling</li> </ul>
Science-Driven Prevention and Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote systematic and coordinated care</li> <li>Promote safe practices at point of initiation of inpatient opioids</li> <li>Promote the use of evidence-based tools for morphine equivalent dose (MED) and transitions between formulations</li> </ul>
Promotion of Best Practices Within Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use metrics to monitor the use of opioid safety “best practices”</li> <li>Promote the use of evidence-based guidelines for monitoring</li> </ul>

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## Slides Available Preventing Opioid ADEs



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## CDC Website on Rx Overdoses

[www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationsafety/rxbrief/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationsafety/rxbrief/index.html)

Opioid ADE Prevention, as Proposed by the Federal Interagency Workgroup for Opioid ADEs	
Metric	Description and Justification
<b>Outpatient Clinical Quality Measure Concepts</b>	
Patients on high daily dose of long-term opioid therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an association between high daily dose of opioids and opioid ADEs, which requires further study to understand the impact on clinical practice.</li> </ul>
Patients co-prescribed long-term opioid therapy and CNS depressants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-prescribing of opioids with CNS depressants, especially benzodiazepines, is associated with opioid overdose deaths.</li> </ul>
Patients that were given a toxicology screen prior to initiating therapy and at least once a year while on long-term opioid therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All guidelines recommend assessment of risk related to substance abuse prior to initiating opioids and while patients are on therapy.</li> </ul>
Patients on long-term opioid therapy who had been in to the relevant Prescription Drug Monitoring Program prior to initiating therapy and at least every year if on chronic opioid therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines recommend monitoring PDMPs when available.</li> <li>Early data show that PDMPs may be effective, although more research will be necessary as PDMPs continue to be developed and used.</li> </ul>
Patients on long-term opioid therapy who have evidence of a written opioid care management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All guidelines recommend that patients starting on long-term opioid therapy have an opioid care management plan that identifies the goals of therapy and the expectations for the patient.</li> </ul>
Number of patients on long-term opioid therapy who have evidence of mental health assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All guidelines recommend assessment for mental health disorders prior to initiating opioids, and treatment as appropriate.</li> </ul>
Number of patients in facility or practice prescribed opioid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers are based on a VA measure that is used to compare prescribing rates across facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Inpatient Clinical Quality Measure Concepts</b>	
Opioid-naïve patients started on high-dose opioids in the inpatient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inappropriate prescribing is a significant problem that can lead to opioid overdose in the inpatient setting, especially in high-potency opioid medications.</li> </ul>

## Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit

<http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA16-4742/SMA16-4742.pdf>

**SAMHSA**  
**Opioid Overdose Prevention  
TOOLKIT:**

Facts for Community Members  
Five Essential Steps for First Responders  
Information for Prescribers  
Safety Advice for Patients & Family Members  
Recovering From Opioid Overdose

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## 1.1 Billion Funding Proposed Opioid Abuse

- President's budget proposes 1.1 billion to address prescription opioid abuse and heroin use epidemic
- These have taken a heartbreaking toll on too many Americans and their families
- 28,648 deaths from this in 2014
- Sharp increase in heroin deaths and increasing deaths from fentanyl
- President said this is a priority in his administration
- Substance use disorders are required to be covered by insurance

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## Briefing Room

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Disclosures

The White House  
Office of the Press Secretary  
For Immediate Release  
February 02, 2016

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**FACT SHEET: President Obama Proposes \$1.1 Billion in New Funding to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Use Epidemic**

President's Budget includes new mandatory funding to help ensure that all Americans who want treatment can get the help they need

Prescription drug abuse and heroin use have taken a heartbreaking toll on too many Americans and their families, while straining resources of law enforcement and treatment programs. More Americans now die every year from drug overdoses than they do in motor vehicle crashes. New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that opioids—a class of drugs that include prescription pain medications and heroin—were involved in 28,648 deaths in 2014. In particular, CDC found a continued sharp increase in heroin-involved deaths, and an emerging increase in deaths involving synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl.

The President has made clear that addressing the opioid overdose

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## TJC Opioid Standards for Behavioral Health

- Recently, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued an update
- The update was to the 2007 Guidelines for the Accreditation of Opioid Treatment Programs
- TJC did a comparative analysis to make sure their standards were still consistent with SAMHSA
- TJC makes revisions effective July 1, 2016
- Discusses history, physical, assessment, testing, requirements of the opioid treatment program etc.

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## SAMHSA Opioid Treatment Guidelines

- The final revised guidelines for opioid treatment programs (OTP) were released March 15, 2015
- It is 82 pages long
- Called Federal Guidelines for Opioid Treatment Programs
- Has chapter on the new changes
- Includes section on the medication unit, human resource management, telemedicine, risk management, patient and staff emergencies, program sponsor, medical director, etc.

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<http://cdn.atforum.com/wp-content/uploads/Federal-Guidelines-For-Opioid-Treatment-Programs-March-2015.pdf>

# FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS

March 2015

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## TJC Opioid Standards for Behavioral Health

**Joint Commission Requirements**

**Standards Revisions for Opioid Treatment Programs**

APPLICABLE TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

Effective July 1, 2016

Cars, Treatment, and Services (CTS)

**Standard CTS.01.01.01**

The organization accepts for care, treatment, or services only those individuals whose identified care, treatment, or service needs can meet:

**Note 1: For opioid treatment programs:** If an individual eligible for treatment approves for admission to a comprehensive pain management program, but cannot be admitted to the program within 14 days in a program that is within a reasonable geographic area, the organization must provide the individual with the option to place the individual in interim maintenance treatment.

**Note 2: For opioid treatment programs:** There may be individuals who are currently physically dependent on opioid use but are not currently physiologically dependent. Federal special populations, because these individuals are susceptible to relapse to opioid addiction, leading to high-risk behaviors which pose a threat to the individual and others. These populations include the following:

- Persons recently released from a penal institution
- Persons recently discharged from a chronic care facility
- Pregnant women
- Previously treated patients

**Standard CTS.02.01.07**

The organization completes a physical health assessment, including a medical history and physical examination.

**Note:** The organization does not provide hospital care and therapeutic foster care. (Refer to CTS.02.04.01, EP 1 for more information.)

**Element of Performance for CTS.02.01.07**

**A.3. For opioid treatment programs:** The program does not use telemedicine to substitute for a physical examination without a physical examination by a qualified provider to support the decision making of a physician, where a provider qualified to conduct physical examinations and make diagnoses is physically located with the patient.

**Standard CTS.02.02.09**

For opioid treatment programs: The organization has a process for addressing potentially false-positive and false-negative urine or other toxicology test results.

**Element of Performance for CTS.02.02.09**

**A.12. For opioid treatment programs:** The program includes a process for addressing potentially false-positive and false-negative urine or other toxicology test results.

Please note that the numbering for Standard CTS.02.02.09 reflects relocation of various requirements.

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FDA News Release

## Califf, FDA top officials call for sweeping review of agency opioids policies

For Immediate Release  
February 4, 2016

**Release**

In response to the opioid abuse epidemic, today Dr. Robert Califf, the FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco, along with other FDA leaders, called for a far-reaching action plan to reassess the agency's approach to opioid medications. The plan will focus on policies aimed at reversing the epidemic, while still providing patients in pain access to effective relief.

The FDA will:

- Re-examine the risk-benefit paradigm for opioids and ensure that the agency considers their wider public health effects
- Convene an expert advisory committee before approving any new drug application for an opioid that does not have abuse-deterrent properties;
- Assemble and consult with the Pediatric Advisory Committee regarding a framework for pediatric opioid labeling before any new labeling is approved;
- Develop changes to immediate-release opioid labeling, including additional warnings and safety information that incorporate elements similar to the extended-release/long-acting (ER/LA) opioid analgesics labeling that is currently required;

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## AMA Calls for End to Opioid Epidemic

- Unacceptable that 30,000 die each year from misuse and abuse of prescription opioids and heroin
- Issues joint statement with National Governors Association
- Physicians should use prescription drug monitoring programs
- These databases can identify potential opioid abuse
- Physicians who prescribe need the most up to date information
- Guidelines are important tools

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## AMA Calls for End to Opioid Epidemic

**Governors, Physicians Call For End To Nation's Opioid Epidemic**

February 20, 2016

Joint statement by National Governors Association (NGA) Health and Human Services Committee Chair Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker; Vice Chair Nevada Governor Gov. Maggie Hassan; American Medical Association (AMA) Chair-Elect Patricia A. Harris, MD, MA

Governors and physicians find it unacceptable that nearly 30,000 Americans die each year from the misuse and abuse of prescription opioids and heroin. To end this national epidemic that claims the lives of so many Americans, governors, physicians, state legislators and other stakeholders must join together to take action.

We agree that physicians who prescribe opioids and other controlled substances benefit greatly when they understand how to prevent misuse and abuse. Prescription drug monitoring programs, which are integrated into everyday practice, are a powerful tool to identify potential signs of opioid abuse, enhance patient care, improve prescribing practices and signal when a patient may need treatment for a substance use disorder.

We agree that education about effective pain management, substance use disorder and related areas should begin in medical school and continue throughout a physician's career. That means physicians who prescribe controlled substances must receive training on how to prevent misuse and abuse and how to appropriately treat patients who are seeking pain relief.

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## CMS CoPs on IV Medication, Safe Opioids and Blood



### IV Medication & Transfusions

- CMS states the medication process is a **shared** responsibility of the hospital nursing staff
  - This includes using a comprehensive system and compliance with the pharmacy standards and patient safety requirements under the QAPI section
  - The QAPI section was rewritten March 21, 2014
  - Remember the CMS QAPI worksheet
- Patient risk assessment and appropriate monitoring of patient response to medications, especially opioids, can reduce medication errors

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### Medication Safety & IV Opioids

- CMS said updating their requirements to better align with current acceptable standards of practice
- Every year there are many fatalities with the use of IV opioid medications in hospitals
- Opioid-induced respiratory depression deaths might be prevented with appropriate risk assessment and frequent monitoring of respiratory rate, oxygen, and sedation level
  - Also PCA is a form of self administration
- Added additional guidance or blue box advisories

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## CMS QAPI Work Sheet ADE & Medical Errors

**PART 3: PATIENT SAFETY – ADVERSE EVENTS AND MEDICAL ERRORS (CONTINUED)**

Elements to be Assessed	Manner of Assessment Code (Enter all that apply) & Surveyor Notes
5.5 Does the QAPI program identify and track near misses, adverse events, medical errors, and drug related incompatibilities?	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> 5 <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions.html">www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions.html</a>
If no to 5.5, the hospital would be at risk on a non-POL non-pilot survey for a deficiency citation related to 42 CFR 482.25(b)(4) ( <a href="#">Reg 4-110</a> ) and 42 CFR 482.25(b)(5) ( <a href="#">Reg 4-110</a> )	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> 5
If yes to 5.5, the survey team have prior knowledge of, or suspect the hospital has had, one or more adverse events that the hospital failed to identify?	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> 5
If yes to 5.5, the hospital would be at risk on a non-POL non-pilot survey for a deficiency citation related to 42 CFR 482.25(b)(4) ( <a href="#">Reg 4-110</a> ) and 42 CFR 482.25(b)(5) ( <a href="#">Reg 4-110</a> )	

Marker of Assessment Code - 1-Intervene - 2-Observation - 3-QAPI Documentation - 4-Bureau Record Review - 5-Other

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## Final CMS CoP Worksheets Published

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-1600  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1880

**CMS**  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

**DATE:** November 26, 2014      **REF:** S&C: 15-12-Hospital

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors      **www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions.html**

**FROM:** Director, Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** Public Release of Three Hospital Surveyor Worksheets

**Memorandum Summary**

- Three Hospital Surveyor Worksheets Finalized:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has finalized surveyor worksheets for assessing compliance with three Medicare hospital Care Quality Participation (CoPs): Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI), Infection Control, and Discharge Planning. The worksheets are used by State and Federal surveyors on all survey activity in hospitals when assessing compliance with any of these CoPs.
- Final Worksheets Made Public:** Via this memorandum we are making the worksheets publicly available. The hospital industry is encouraged, but not required, to use the worksheets as part of their self-assessment tools to promote quality and patient safety.

Enclosures: 65

## QAPI Questions Surveyor Will Ask

- Is there evidence of training or communication to convey expectations for patient safety related to reporting medication errors including near misses?
- Is there evidence that the hospital has adopted policies supporting a non-punitive approach to staff reporting of medical errors (including near misses/close calls), adverse events, and situations they consider unsafe?
- On every unit can staff describe what is meant by medical errors including medication errors, near misses and adverse events?

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## QAPI Questions Surveyor Will Ask

- Does the QAPI program identify and track medication administration errors, adverse drug reactions, and drug related incompatibilities?
- Is there a QAPI program process for staff to report blood transfusion reactions, and reviews of reported blood transfusion reactions to identify medical errors (including near misses/close calls) and/or adverse events ?
- Can the hospital provide evidence that medical errors, near misses, and adverse events are identified in staff reports or incident reports?

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## Follow National Standards of Care 405

- **Standard:** Medications must be prepared and administered with acceptable national standards of practice and mentions five organizations (405)
  - National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention
  - Institute for Healthcare Improvement
  - U.S Pharmacopeia
  - Institute for Safe Medication Practices
  - Infusion Nurses Society
  - CDC at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
  - Also according to the TJC MM chapter, manufacturer's directions and hospital policy

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## Timing of Medication Administration Tag 405

- What are acceptable standards of care?
  - National organizations that are recognized in the field issue written statements and policies that direct patient care
- The hospital's P&Ps must be consistent with SOC
- Standards of care can be set by state pharmacy boards and national organizations like the ones mentioned by CMS
- Others include:
  - ASHP (American Society of Healthcare System Pharmacist), American Nurses Association (ANA), American Pharmacy Association (APA), APIC, etc.

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3 Time Frames for Administering Medication

Time Critical Medicine	
1 hour before or after	
2 hours before or after	

ISMP Institute for Safe Medication Practices

Infusion Nurses Society INS

**Free Publication Business Case IV Teams**

Funded through an Educational Grant by  

## Making the Business Case for Infusion Teams: The Purpose, People, and Process

[www.ins1.org/files/public/2014\\_Making\\_The\\_Business\\_Case\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.ins1.org/files/public/2014_Making_The_Business_Case_Paper.pdf)

**Introduction**  
 Over the past 65 years, many factors have influenced the development and abandonment of hospital-based infusion teams. Originally, state laws required hospitals to have all IV infusions prepared by pharmacists. This changed in the early 1960s.<sup>4</sup> Owing to these legal changes, highly specialized and skilled nurses were needed to assume infusion responsibilities, thus driving the need for infusion teams. In addition, the introduction of new drugs brought patient safety concerns associated with excessive working hours for medical interns and residents. Inserting peripheral IV catheters, troubleshooting all types of infusion equipment, and managing multiple infusions required a team of infusion team of skilled nurses, thus reducing the workload of these physicians.<sup>1,2</sup> At the turn of the 21st century,<sup>3</sup>

**Authors:**  
 Lynn Hadaway, MEd, RN-BC, CRN<sup>®</sup>  
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**National Coordinating Council**



**Welcome to the NCC MERP web site**  
 National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

The National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP) is an independent body comprised of 22 national organizations.

In 1995, USP spearheaded the formation of the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP). Leading national health care organizations are meeting, collaborating, and cooperating to standardize medication error reporting and work to promote the safe use of medications. USP is a founding member and the Secretariat for NCC MERP. For a history on NCC MERP, click here.

**MEDICATION ERRORS**  
 Definition: NCC MERP defines a Medication Error

**Categorization:** Our Medication Error Index classifies an error according to the severity of the outcome, shown by chart (Color / Black & White) and algorithm (Color / Black & White).

**Dangerous Abbreviations:** See table for intended meaning and common errors.

**Taxonomy:** NCC MERP provides a standard taxonomy of medication errors to provide a common language for reporting and analyzing errors.

**NAN Alert:** Are you receiving the NAN Alert? The National Alert Network (NAN) publishes incident driven reports of medication errors; lessons learned can be used to increase the safety of the medication use system. Click on [Sign Up!](#) to subscribe and see previous editions!

Is your organization interested in membership? [Find out more](#).

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**NATIONAL ALERT NETWORK (NAN)**

The National Alert Network (NAN) is a coalition of members of the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP), The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) pursue the goal of the National Medication Error Reporting Program (NMERP). ISMP, The alerts are incident driven. The NCC MERP, ISMP and the ASHP encourage the sharing and reporting of medication errors, so that lessons learned can be used to increase the safety of the medication use system.

February 10, 2014	Potential inaccuracy of electronically transmitted medication history information used for medication reconciliation
June 10, 2013	Important Change with Heparin Labels
April 17, 2013	Confusion regarding the generic name of the HER2-targeted drug KADCYLA (ado-trastuzumab emtansine)
January 23, 2013	Severe burns and permanent scarring after glacial acetic acid (> 99.5%) mistakenly applied topically
April 26, 2012	Proper disposal of fentanyl patches is critical to prevent accidental exposure
March 18, 2012	Potential for wrong route errors with Exparel (bupivacaine liposome injectable suspension)
Jan 2011	Risk of potentially fatal overdose with colistimethate
June 2010	EPINEPHrine pre-filled syringe shortage
Apr 2010	Another child is victim of heparin error

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Institute for Healthcare Improvement IHI

USP U.S. Pharmacopeial

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention CDC

## CDC IV Guidelines



- Every hospital should have the 2011 CDC Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter Related Infections
- How to prep the skin for the peripheral IV
- How to secure the needle
- How long to change the dressing
- How long do you change the IV tubing?

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[www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/bsi-guidelines-2011.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/bsi-guidelines-2011.pdf)

### Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections, 2011

Naomi P. O'Grady, M.D.<sup>1</sup>; Mary Alexander, R.N.<sup>2</sup>; Lillian A. Burns, M.T., M.P.H., C.I.C.<sup>3</sup>; Patchen Dellinger, M.D.<sup>4</sup>; Jeffery Garland, M.D., S.M.<sup>5</sup>; Stephen O. Heard, M.D.<sup>6</sup>; Pamela A. Lipsett, M.D.<sup>7</sup>; Henry Masur, M.D.<sup>8</sup>; Leonard A. Mermel, D.O., Sc.M.<sup>9</sup>; Michele L. Petty, M.D., M.P.H.<sup>10</sup>; Michael J. Raemer, M.D.<sup>11</sup>; Adrienne Randolph, M.D., M.Sc.<sup>12</sup>; Mark E. Rupp, M.D.<sup>13</sup>; Sanjay Santu, M.D., M.P.H.<sup>14</sup>; and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC)<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>One Daniel in the Woods, Allentown, Pennsylvania  
<sup>2</sup>Infusion Nurses Society, Novato, California  
<sup>3</sup>Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri  
<sup>4</sup>University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin  
<sup>5</sup>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland  
<sup>6</sup>Brown Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island  
<sup>7</sup>University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas  
<sup>8</sup>MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas  
<sup>9</sup>University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska  
<sup>10</sup>Albion VA Medical Center and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

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## Safe Injection Practices

- Must ensure staff follow SOP to prevent HAI related to medication preparation
  - References infection control worksheet
  - Assessed under infection control section
- Compounded sterile preparations (CSP) can cause HAI if proper precautions not followed such as USP standards
- Nurses may prepare sterile medication for immediate use
- CMS mentions the following apply

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## Compounding 2016

- Must only involve simple transfer of not more than 3 commercially manufactured, sterile, nonhazardous products from the manufacturer's original container
- And not more than two entries into any one container including a vial or an IV bag
- Administration must be within one hour following the preparation
- Must follow aseptic technique during all phases of preparation

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## Compounding 2015

- Must label it unless you prepare it and immediately administer it to the patient
- CSP label must include: patient identification, name and amount of ingredients, name or initial of person who prepared it, and exact one hour BUD
- Drug is outdated after its expiration date or BUD
  - BUD is December 2017 but multi-dose vial expires in 28 days when opened unless sooner by manufacturer
- Need P&P to give clear directions to staff on how to determine BUD date if not available from manufacturer

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## Blood Transfusions and IVs

- **Standard:** Blood transfusions and IV medications must be administered with state law and MS P&P
  - This section has been changed five times over the past several years
  - Use to require special training for this and there was a long list of things that nurses had to be trained on
  - Added section on compounding to the nursing section along with a detailed section on the same in the pharmacy section

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## Blood Transfusions and IVs 409

- CMS eliminated the regulations mandating training for non-physicians who administer IV medication and blood and blood products
  - CMS says because this training is already standard practice
  - However, when the June 2013 interpretive guidelines were issued CMS said you must still be **competent** in those areas
  - So basically hospitals will want to train in these areas
  - Must follow your P&P and state scope of practice

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## Blood and IV Medication Training

- Must still follow **state law requirements**
  - In some states an LPN can not hang blood
  - Or the LPN can not push certain IV medications in some states
  - Must show they are competent
- Must still have approved **Medical Staff Policies** and Procedures in place
- Staff must follow these which have most of the things that were previously required

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## Blood and IV Medication Training

- CMS mentions that many of the medications given IV are included in the high risk or high alert medication category
- High alerts are those that if a mistake happens the patient is more likely to be injured or die
- CMS references several other areas in the CoP on high alert medications
  - Including that patients need be monitored when receiving high alert medications like opioids which is discussed later
  - TJC has section on high alert medication in MM.01.01.03

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## High Risk Medications

- Need P&P on high alert medications such as dosing limits, administration guidelines, packaging, labeling and storage to reduce medication errors (490)
  - Could be pediatric, geriatric or patients with renal or hepatic impairment
  - Need to have a system to minimize adverse drug events
  - There are several lists of high alert medications and may want to make sure list is posted in medication rooms even though hospital does not select all of them in their policy

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## High Risk Medications

- High risk medications may include (continued):
  - Such as checklists, dose limits, pre-printed orders, special packaging, special labeling, double-checks and written guidelines
  - Examples of high-risk drugs may include investigational drugs, controlled medications, medications not on the approved FDA list, medications with a narrow therapeutic range, psychotherapeutic medications and look-alike/sound-alike medications and those new to the market or new to the hospital

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## Policy on High Alert Medications

- Have a policy on high alert meds,
- Common ones include Digoxin IV, Heparin, adrenergic agonists, concentrated electrolytes and chemo have highest risk of injury (ISMP)
- Insulin, Warfarin, Opiates and Narcotics, injectible KCL, Heparin, Fentanyl patches, and NaCl over 0.9% were most commonly ones involved in error
- CMS amends CoPs and is focusing on safe use of **opioids** as a high risk medication

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## Policy on High Alert Medications

- If insulin have vials in different bins or sections of the box and not all thrown together
- Use tall man lettering such as Nova**Log** and Nova**LIN**
  - High alert may include; Epidural infusions, Fentanyl, Heparin over 1000 units, insulin, Lidocaine with Epi vials, neuromuscular blockers, PCA, TPN, moderate sedation, anesthetic agents (propofol), and adrenergic agonists (phenylephrine)

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### MODEL HIGH-ALERT MEDICATIONS POLICY & PROCEDURES

#### PURPOSE

- To provide guidance to acute care organizations for the safe handling and administration of medications designated as High Alert Medications.
- To increase awareness of High Alert Medications, thereby improving patient safety.

#### DEFINITION

High Alert Medications are drugs that bear a higher risk of causing significant patient harm when they are used in error.<sup>1</sup>

#### POLICY

- A. The following medications are appropriate for inclusion in a High Alert Medications policy.

- Epidural infusions
- Fentanyl
- Insulin (less than 100 units, flushes exempt)
- Insulin (including regular, aspart, NPH, and glargine)
- Lidocaine with epinephrine vials
- Neuromuscular blocking agents (atracurium, cisatracurium, mivacurium, rocuronium, vecuronium, sucuronium, succinylcholine, vecuronium, etc.)
- Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA)
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) and Total Nutrient Admixture (TNA) solutions
- Oncologic agents
- Moderate sedation agents (e.g., midazolam)
- Anesthetic agents (e.g., propofol)
- Concentrated electrolyte solutions

- B. The following medications may also be appropriate for inclusion in a High Alert Medication policy in addition to the medications above.

- Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors (eptifibatide, abciximab, tirofiban)
- Iron Dextran
- Adrenergic antagonists agents (e.g., esmolol)
- Anticonvulsants

- C. Concentrated electrolyte vials (e.g., potassium chloride) should not be stocked in patient care areas.

**PROCEDURES**  
Safety procedures during the ordering, preparation, dispensing and administration of High Alert Medications include:

#### Prescribing

- A. Verbal orders for High Alert Medications should be discontinued.
- B. Written prescribing for High Alert Medications should be standardized using preprinted orders.

#### Preparation and Dispensing

- A. All storage locations should be clearly labeled and separated from regular stock. If High Alert Medications must be kept in patient care areas, locked cabinets should be used with a distinct High Alert Medication warning label visibly placed on the storage bin.

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**High Alert How to Guide IHI**

**Getting Started Kit:**  
Prevent Harm from  
High-Alert Medications

**How-to Guide**

A national initiative led by IHI, the 5 Million Lives Campaign aims to dramatically improve the safety of American health care by protecting patients from five million instances of medical harm between December 2006 and December 2008. The How-to Guide is part of the Getting Started Kit.

[www.ihi.org/NR/donkeys/8B2475CD-56C7-4D9B-B359-801F3CC3A8D5/0/HighAlertMedicationsHowToGuide.doc](http://www.ihi.org/NR/donkeys/8B2475CD-56C7-4D9B-B359-801F3CC3A8D5/0/HighAlertMedicationsHowToGuide.doc)

**ISMP's List of High-Alert Medications**

High-alert medications are drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing catastrophic patient harm when they are used in error. Although mistakes can occur with any drug or medical product, these drugs, the consequences of an error are clearly more devastating to patients. We have developed this list of high-alert medications to assist you in developing special safeguards to reduce the risk of errors. This may include strategies like improving access to information about these drugs; limiting access to high-alert medications; using auxiliary labels and color-coding to identify these drugs; employing strict protocols for dispensing and administration of these products; and employing redundancies such as automated or independent double-checks. These strategies are not foolproof, and automated double-checks are not always the optimal error-reduction strategy and may not be practical for all of the medications on this list.

Class/Category of Medication	Specific Medications
antinepileptic agents, IV (e.g., aripiprazole, phenytoin, neostigmine)	carbamazepine, IV
anticoagulants, IV (e.g., apixaban, rivaroxaban, dabigatran)	heparin, unfractionated heparin, Factor Xa inhibitors (dabigatran), direct thrombin inhibitors (e.g., argatroban, bivalirudin, fondaparinux, lepirudin, desirudin, romipril, tenecteplase), and pegysome fibrinolytic inhibitors (e.g., eptifibatide)
cardiotonic agents	digoxin, furosemide, potassium and sodium
chemotherapeutic agents, parenteral and oral	doxorubicin, hydrochloric, 20% or greater
cytotoxic agents	daunorubicin, doxorubicin, epinephrine, methotrexate
hypnotics, analgesics, and sedatives	ketamine, midazolam, propofol, zolpidem
insulin medications, IV (e.g., albuterol, nitroprusside)	insulin lispro, insulin glargine, insulin detemir, insulin aspart, insulin regular, insulin glulisine, insulin zinc suspension, and insulin protamine zinc suspension
isotonic forms of drugs (e.g., levosimendan amphotericin B)	levosimendan, amphotericin B (e.g., miltefosine)
moderate sedative agents, oral	moderate sedative agents, oral, for children (e.g., chloral hydrate)
neuroleptic agents, IV (e.g., haloperidol)	haloperidol, haloperidol, NL, bromadol, and one (including loxapac, reserpine, and metoclopramide, benztropine)

**Radiographic**

Based on error reports submitted to the ISMP-ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program, radiographic contrast media are the most frequently involved in patient safety events. ISMP created and recently updated a list of potential high-alert medications. During February-April 2002, 770 practitioners responded to an ISMP survey designed to identify which of these medications were most frequently involved.

## Blood Transfusions and IVs

- Hospital P&P for blood and IV medication must be based on state law and MS P&P and must address the following:
  - Vascular access route such as central line, peripheral or implanted port and what medications can be given IV and via what type of access devices
  - Basic safety practices for medication administration
    - **Tracing line** and tubes prior to administration to be sure proper route
    - Verify proper programming of infusion devices

## Why Trace the Lines?

- CMS issues survey memo regarding why they want nurses to trace the lines when getting out of report or before injecting medication into an IV line
  - This has been a patient safety issue for many years
  - Staff can connect two things together that do not belong together because the ends match
  - It has been the subject of many reports including a sentinel event alert from TJC

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## Luer Misconnections Memo

- A study found the Pa Patient Safety Authority found that it occurred once a month in their state and if you extrapolate that to the nation it could be 50 a month
  - For example, a patient had the blood pressure cuff connected to the IV and died of an air embolism
  - Nurse accidentally hangs a medication in the epidural line instead of the IV resulting in the patient's death
  - Luer connections easily link many medical components, accessories and delivery devices

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## Luer Misconnections Memo



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C2-23-1B  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1500

ENTER FILE NUMBER

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

**DATE:** March 8, 2013

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

#### **in Adverse Events**

- **Lure Misconnections continue to result in adverse events and deaths:** Lure connectors easily link many medical components, accessories, and delivery systems. Clinicians, in any type of provider or supplier setting, can mistakenly connect the wrong devices and deliver substances through the wrong route. Despite numerous alerts and interventions, lure misconnections continue to occur. The FDA has issued four advisories (IV) [list one as mandatory] to surgery centers (ASC) resulting in a patient death.
  - **Adverse Event Complaint Investigation:** During a complaint investigation for an adverse event involving delivery of an incorrect substance or utilization of an incorrect device, surveyors must determine whether the facility has taken actions to prevent or reduce the risk of a future adverse event. If we, surveyors must determine whether the facility has taken actions to ensure systems are in place to prevent recurrence of this type of adverse event.
  - **Facility Reporting to Food & Drug Administration problems (FDA):** Surveyors should review facility's reporting of adverse events problems with Luer misconnections to the FDA, even if no adverse event occurred.

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## PA Patient Safety Authority Article

Table. Tubing Misconnections Reported to the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, January 2008 to September 2009	
MISCONNECTION	NUMBER OF REPORTS
Secondary intravenous (IV) infusion connected to lower "Y" port of primary IV tubing set	8
Hemodialysis arterial and venous tubing lines reversed	5
G-tube and J-tube lines reversed	3
Incorrect tubing connection (no further explanation provided in reports)	3
Epidural and patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) tubing sets reversed	2
Nonhemodialysis arterial and venous tubing lines reversed	2
Cell saver tubing connected to cell saver reservoir	1
Feeding tube set connected to Broviac®	1
Feeding tube set connected to peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) line	1
Feeding tube set connected to suction port	1
Imaging contrast tubing set connected to tracheostomy cuff	1
IV tubing set connected to dialysis catheter	1
IV tubing set connected to PICC line	1
IV tubing set connected to tracheostomy cuff	1
Knee irrigation connected to peripheral IV tubing	1
Miscommunication (arterial line noted in medical record as peripheral IV)	1
Oral medication delivered through peripheral IV line	1
Suction line connected to water seal	1
Suction and feeding tubing sets reversed	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

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## ISMP Tubing Misconnections

www.ismp.org

**ISMP Medication Safety Alert!**

PREVENTING CATHETER/TUBING MISCONNECTIONS: MUCH NEEDED HELP IS ON THE WAY

From the July 15, 2010 issue

Catheter/tubing misconnections remain a serious problem in healthcare. Just a few weeks ago we learned of another fatal event. Over Memorial Day weekend, a 19-month-old child, who was receiving treatment for a chronic gastritis, died after receiving a fatal dose of amiodarone (an antiarrhythmic agent) via a central line intravenous catheter instead of through an enteral feeding tube.

In May 2010, another report was published about bumetanide sulfate being administered via the superior vena cava during hemodialysis. A 17-year-old man received a fatal dose of bumetanide sulfate via a central venous catheter (CVC) instead of via a peripheral line. The patient had been receiving hemodialysis for 10 years. The error occurred during a routine dialysis session at the child's gastrostomy tube. Fortunately, no respiratory distress developed and the child was discharged days later.

Luer connector systems, common to many healthcare catheters, tubes, administration sets, extension sets, and syringe hubs, have been implicated in many of these errors. One of the reasons for this is the lack of standardization. Another problem is the fact that some manufactured enteral catheters still have ports that only accept parenteral administration sets. This can lead to confusion when healthcare providers attempt to administer enteral nutrition via a parenteral syringe for administration via their type of enteral catheter port, risking the accidental administration of the drug via the wrong route.

Below are examples of the type of reports we have received associated with catheter/tubing misconnections; all of which we've described in this newsletter since publication began in 1996:

- IV infusions connected to epidural lines, and epidural solutions connected to IV lines
- Syringe containing IV medication given via an intratracheal catheter
- IV tubing connected to the balloon port of endotracheal tube or tracheostomy tube
- Epidural connector device connected to arterial blood pressure cuff tubing attached to port of IV administration set
- Oxygen tubing connected to port of IV administration set
- Breast milk intravenously infused into neonates
- Bladder irrigation solutions given IV, or TPN solutions administered via Foley catheter port
- IV administration set spiked into enteral nutrition container, resulting in enteral nutrition administered IV.

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## TJC Sentinel Event Alert #36

www.jointcommission.org

The Joint Commission

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Sentinel Event Alert, Issue 36: Tubing misconnections—a persistent and potentially deadly occurrence

April 1, 2008

Download This File

Taking and culture: Misconnections occur as an important and under-reported problem in health care organizations. In addition, these errors are often caught and corrected before any injury to the patient occurs. Given the reality and potential for life threatening consequences, increased awareness and analysis of these errors—including avoided errors—can lead to dramatic improvement in patient safety.



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## New Standards Prevent Tubing Misconnections

- New and unique international standards being developed in 2014 for connectors for gas and liquid delivery systems
- To make it impossible to connect unrelated systems
- Includes new connectors for enteral, respiratory, limb cuff inflation neuraxial, and intravascular systems
- Phase in period for product development, market release and implementation guided by the FDA and national organizations and state legislatures
  - FAQ on small bore connector initiative

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### New standards to prevent tubing misconnections will have unprecedented impact on supply chain and patient safety



What if you could no longer connect any of the equipment that you have in stock to give enteral feedings (e.g., feeding sets, tubes, oral syringes). That is the likely scenario – once new standards to prevent tubing misconnections are released – without a carefully crafted implementation plan across all settings where care is delivered.

The very simple and universal design of most connectors in all of health care creates a serious risk that tubes from totally unrelated systems can be inadvertently connected leading to patient death or serious injury. This means that an enteral feeding tube could be accidentally connected to an IV line, delivering formula into a vein with fatal consequences. An international group of stakeholders are working together to solve this problem by developing unique design standards for every delivery system so that unrelated systems can never be mistakenly connected together.

#### What do these new standards mean for healthcare

New and unique international standards are being developed for connectors for each gas and liquid delivery system in healthcare to make it virtually impossible to connect unrelated systems\*. These new connector standards will include new designs for connectors of enteral, respiratory, limb cuff inflation, neuraxial, and intravascular systems. It is anticipated that the standards for enteral connectors will be the first to be released in 2014. There will be a phase-in period for product development, market release and implementation guided by the FDA, existing state legislation, suppliers, and national organizations working together.

[www.premierinc.com/tubingmisconnections/](http://www.premierinc.com/tubingmisconnections/)

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A-0409

(Rev.3)

§482.23(c)(4) - Blood transfusions and intravenous medications must be administered in accordance with State law and approved medical staff policies and procedures.

#### Interpretative Guidelines §482.23(c)(4)

Intravenous (IV) medications and blood transfusions must be administered in accordance with State law and approved medical staff policies and procedures. Further, many of the medications included in the high-alert categories are administered intravenously. (See also the discussion of high-risk/high-alert medications in the guidance for §482.25(b).) Hospital policies and procedures must distinguish and IV medications must be based on accepted standards of practice, and must address at least the following:

##### Vascular Access Route

Patients may require a form of vascular access to deliver blood or medications, either venous or arterial, based on the desired treatment plan. Safe administration of blood transfusions and IV medications includes the correct choice of vascular access. IV medications, such as fluids, antibiotics, and chemotherapy, may require specific types of access, such as peripheral or central lines, and different plans depending on the type of medication and properties of the medication. Hospital policies and procedures must address which medications can be given intravenously via what type of access.

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## Blood Transfusions and IVs

- Patient Monitoring
- Nursing staff must understand each medication and its monitoring requirement
- Monitor for the effects of the medication since IV medications have a more rapid effect
- Monitoring to include assessment of risk factors that would influence type and frequency of monitoring
- Such as patient with renal failure on Vancomycin and dose is based on lab test

## Blood Transfusions and IVs

- P&P expected to address
  - Monitoring for fluid and electrolyte balance
  - Monitor patients on high alert meds including **opioids** and evaluate for over-sedation and respiratory depression
    - Tag 405 discusses the assessment and monitoring of patients on opioids
  - Needs to address assessment of patients with risk factors that would influence the type and frequency of monitoring

The screenshot shows the MedlinePlus homepage with a search bar for 'Fluid & Electrolyte Balance'. Below the search bar, there's a 'Health Topics' dropdown menu with 'Fluids & Electrolytes' selected. To the right of the menu is a 'Search MedlinePlus' input field and a magnifying glass icon. A '60' badge is visible in the top right corner. The main content area features a large image of a glass of water.

## Assessment & Monitoring of Patients

- Patients on medications needed to be carefully monitored (Tag 405)
    - May need clinical and lab data to evaluate medication
    - Monitor respiratory status, pulse ox BP, end tidal CO<sub>2</sub> with patients on **opioids**
    - Evaluate clinical signs such as confusion, agitation, unsteady gait, itching etc.
    - Know **high risk medications** policy and safe practices
    - Know risk factors for ADE such as patient has liver or kidney failure, history of sleep apnea, obesity, smoking, drug-drug interaction and first time medication use

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## Assessment & Monitoring of Patients

- ADE, such as anaphylaxis or opioid-induced respiratory depression may require timely and appropriate (405)
  - Post-medication monitoring in case of a high alert medication may include regular assessment of VS, pulse ox, and sedation levels of post surgery patient on PCA
  - Such as Richmond agitation sedation scale (RASS) or the Pasero Opioid-Induced sedation scale (POSS), Inova Sedation Scale (ISS), Ramsey scale, Aldrete Scoring system

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## Pasero Opioid-induced Sedation Scale POSS

**Pasero Opioid-induced Sedation Scale (POSS)**

<https://secure.tha.com/surveys/files/pasero-opioid-induced-sedation-scale-poss.pdf>

S = Sleep, easy to arouse  
*Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed*

**1. Awake and alert**  
*Acceptable: no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed.*

2. Slightly drowsy, easily aroused

*Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed*

3. Frequently drowsy, arousable, drifts off to sleep during conversa-

*Unacceptable; monitor respiratory status and sedation level closely until stable, at least three days; respiratory status is satisfactory; decrease dose.*

*stable at less than 5 and respiratory status is satisfactory, decrease dose or notify prescriber or anesthesiologist for orders; consider administration of naloxone.*

*opioid-sparing nonopioid, such as acetaminophen or an NSAID, if no*

4. Somnolent, minimal or no response to verbal or physical stimuli

*Unacceptable; stop opioid; consider administering naloxone; notify physician/ anesthesiologist; monitor respiratory status and sedation level closely.*

*stable at less than 3 and respiratory status is satisfactory.*

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## Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale RASS

**Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale (RASS) \***

Score	Term	Description	www.cudelirium.org/docs/RASS.pdf
-4	C combative	Overtly combative, violent, immediate danger to staff	
-3	V very agitated	Pulls or removes tube(s) or catheter(s); aggressive	
-2	A agitated	Frequent non-purposeful movement, fights ventilator	
-1	R restless	Anxious but movements not aggressive/vigorous	
0	A alert and calm		
-1	D drowsy	Not fully alert, but has sustained awakening (eye-opening/eye contact) to voice ( $\leq 10$ seconds)	Verbal Stimulation
-2	L light sedation	Briefly awakens with eye contact to voice ( $< 10$ seconds)	Physical Stimulation
-3	M moderate sedation	Movement or eye opening to voice (but no eye contact)	Physical Stimulation
-4	D deep sedation	No response to voice, but movement or eye opening to physical stimulation	Physical Stimulation
-5	U unarousable	No response to voice or physical stimulation	Physical Stimulation

**Procedure for RASS Assessment**

1. Observe patient. (score 0 to +4)
  - Patent is alert, restless, or agitated.
  - If not alert, state patient's name and say to open eyes and look at speaker.
  - Patient awakes with sustained eye opening and eye contact.
  - Patient awakes with eye opening and eye contact, but not sustained.
  - Patient has any movement in response to voice but no eye contact.
3. When no response to verbal stimulation, physically stimulate patient by shaking shoulder and/or rubbing sternum.

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## Comparison of Sedation Scales Medscape

**Comparison of Selected Sedation Scales for Reporting Opioid-Induced Sedation Assessment**

Adam Therrien, Nestor, MHN, CPNP, ADONRS, RN-BC, Florence Mironay-Culter, MHN, ENB-BC, RN-BC | Disclosures

Pain Manag Nurs. 2008;10(3):194-194

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**Abstract and Introduction**  
Non-Assessment of Sedation Using a Sedation Scale

**Study Aims and Methods**  
Abstract  
Limitations  
Summary Recommendations  
References

**EDITORIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Vital Signs Overviews of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers and Other Drugs Among Women**

**Deaths and Severe Adverse Events Associated With Opioid Analgesics**

**Assisted Rapid Opioid Detoxification**

**Chronic Pain Treatment With Opioid Analgesics**

score obtained and actions chosen?

The study sites had immediate organizational significance, because the scale (the RASS) used to assess sedation was not used at the facility to which the research was conducted had not previously been tested for

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## Blood Transfusions and IVs

- **Risk factors** for patients receiving opioids include
  - Snoring or history of sleep apnea
  - No recent opioid use or first-time use of IV opioids
  - Increased opioid dose requirement or opioid habituation
  - Longer length of time receiving general anesthesia during surgery
  - Receiving other sedating drugs, such as benzodiazepines, antihistamines, sedatives, or other CNS depressants
  - Preexisting pulmonary or cardiac disease
  - Thoracic or other surgical incisions that may impair breathing

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## Assess and Monitor Patients

- Need to assess and monitor the effects of the medications
- To allow for early identification of adverse effects
- Some may need to use clinical and lab data to evaluate efficacy of medication therapy
  - For **opioids** may need to monitor respiratory status, Vitals signs such BP, O<sub>2</sub> sat, pain level, sedation scale, and carbon dioxide levels
- Evaluate symptoms such as confusion, agitation, unsteady gait, pruritus, somnolence etc.
- Be aware of high alert medications as discussed

## Blood Transfusions and IVs

- **P&P** must include who can conduct the assessments
- The frequency and duration of the assessments
- Under what circumstances practitioners prescribing IV opioids are allowed to establish protocols that differ from hospital P&P
- **Assessment** includes VS (TPR and BP), pain level, respiratory status, sedation level and ETCO<sub>2</sub>
- Also mentions APSF(Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation) monitoring of opioids including ETCO<sub>2</sub>

## APSF Website Mentioned by CMS



## Whitepaper and Workshop Dangers Opioids

**Dangers of Postoperative Opioids**

APSF Workshop and White Paper Address Prevention of Postoperative Respiratory Complications  
by Matthew R. Wagner, MD  
[www.apsf.org/newsletters/html/2007/winter/01\\_oxiods.htm](http://www.apsf.org/newsletters/html/2007/winter/01_oxiods.htm)

In response to concerns about the safety of the use of patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) in the postoperative period, the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) held a workshop in San Francisco on October 13, 2006, that was attended by over 100 clinicians, scientists, and medical industry representatives. The attendees listened to a range of relevant expert presentations, broke into small groups to discuss specific issues, and then reconvened to present and discuss their findings. The workshop also included a poster session on postoperative opioid-induced respiratory depression. Robert K. Baumgart, MD, APSF President, opened with a statement of the workshop goals: 1) reviewing the evidence regarding the risks of PCA; 2) evaluating the value of continuous monitoring of postoperative patients receiving PCA; and 3) developing recommendations that can be implemented to advance patient safety. He noted that the APSF believed that the evidence indicated that continuous respiratory monitoring is a reasonable recommendation for all patients. Dr. Baumgart also suggested that the recognition of patients at increased risk for respiratory depression and utilization of appropriate monitors to detect this side effect of parenteral opioids could significantly improve patient safety.

The available evidence suggests that there is a significant and underappreciated risk of serious injury from PCA and neuronal opioids in the postoperative period. While some patient populations (notably those patients with obstructive sleep apnea) appear to be at higher risk, there is still a low but unpredictable incidence of respiratory, oxygen-saturating, and/or respiratory depression in young healthy patients. Moreover, life-threatening, oxygen-saturating respiratory depression can occur in an otherwise normal patient after surgery. Data from clinical experience suggest that, while continuous respiratory monitoring could detect many cases of life-threatening, opioid-induced depression, current monitoring technologies and clinical practices are insufficiently reliable with both false positives (e.g., monitor false alarm) and false negatives (e.g., low sensitivity to SpO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of supplemental oxygen administration). Nevertheless, the status quo while awaiting the perfect monitor(s) is not acceptable, and the APSF advocates the routine use of continuous postoperative respiratory monitoring in at-risk patients receiving PCA or neuronal opioids. Although pulse oximetry is a useful tool for oxygen saturation, it has reduced sensitivity as a measure of hypoxemia when supplemental oxygen is administered. When supplemental oxygen is indicated, monitoring of ventilation may warrant the use of technology designed to assess breathing or estimate arterial carbon dioxide concentration.



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Table 1. Summary of Opinions about Current Methods of Detecting Opioid-Induced Respiratory Depression								
Method	Primary Measures	Sensitivity*	Specificity†	Reliability‡	Response Time	Frequency of Measurement	Cost	Comments
Clinical observation <sup>§</sup> Oxygenation & Ventilation	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	Intermittent	Variable	Depends on observer skill and observation frequency	
Chest wall impedance Ventilation	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Continuous	Moderate	May be non-specific in airway obstruction	
Respiratory rate Ventilation	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Intermittent/ Continuous	Variable	May not be helpful in patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)	
Total volume SpO <sub>2</sub> , when going supplemental FiO <sub>2</sub>	Ventilation	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Continuous	Moderate	Dependence may be late and then very rapid
Venous blood gas Oxygenation & Ventilation	Low	Moderate	High	High	Slow	Continuous	Moderate	
Arterial blood gas Oxygenation & Ventilation	Very High	Very High	Very High	Slow	Intermittent	High	Depends on prior clinical observation or tachypnea	
Minute ventilation SpO <sub>2</sub> , without supplemental FiO <sub>2</sub>	Ventilation	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Continuous	Moderate	Unreliable technology
PtCO <sub>2</sub> (unintubated) Ventilation	High	High	High	Fast	Continuous	Moderate	Average pt equation of 100% oxygen saturation and SpO <sub>2</sub> , even with modest hypoxemia	
PtCO <sub>2</sub> (intubated) Ventilation	Moderate	High	Moderate	Fast	Continuous	Moderate	High PtCO <sub>2</sub> significant underestimates CO <sub>2</sub> sampling. Underestimates PtCO <sub>2</sub> . Some believe only reliable measure of respiratory rate	
PtCO <sub>2</sub> (intubated) Ventilation	Very High	Very High	High	Fast	Continuous	Moderate	Not reliable option on ward	

\*Sensitivity is test positivity in the presence of disease (i.e., [True positives]/[True positives + False negatives]).  
†Specificity is test negativity in the absence of disease (i.e., [True negatives]/[True negatives + False positives]).  
‡Reliability is the accuracy of measured data, particularly in the presence of disease.  
§Clinical observation includes signs of sedation, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory rate, depth, and pattern, airway obstruction, cyanosis, etc.

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## ISMP Use a Standard Sedation Scale

**For Information – Not Required/Not to be Cited**

In addition to assessing risk for respiratory depression, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices recommends hospitals use a standard sedation scale when assessing patients receiving PCA. Scales such as the Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale, Pasero, Ramsey, or Glasgow Coma Scale are useful in assessing sedation.

Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), Medication Safety Alert – Fatal PCA Adverse Events Continue to Happen... Better Patient Monitoring is Essential to Prevent Harm, May 10, 2013

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Institute for Safe Medication Practices Guidelines for PCA Monitoring						
Assessment of Opioid Tolerance	Vital Signs	Pain	Sedation	Respiratory		
				Rate	Quality	SPO <sub>2</sub> * &/or ETCO <sub>2</sub> **
<i>Baseline Assessment before PCA</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>PCA Initiation or Change in Drug/Syringe</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q 15 minutes x 1 hour						
Q 1 hour x 4 hours						
Then Q 2 hours						
<i>PCA Dose Change or Bolus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q 1 hour x 4 hours						
Then Q 2 hours						
<i>Adverse Event or Patient Deterioration (e.g., adverse change in sedation score)</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Q 15 minutes x 1 hour						
Q 1 hour x 4 hours						
Then Q 2 hours						
<i>Hand-offs/Shift Change</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Safe Opioid Use & Safe Medication Use

- Patients at great risk for adverse events include age, liver or kidney failure, history of sleep apnea, history of smoking, drug-drug interaction, first time medication use and weight
    - Obesity could increase apnea and smaller patients could more sensitive to dose levels of medications
  - **Risk factors** need to be considered in determining how often to monitor and what type of monitoring
  - Must communicate important information in hand-offs such as change of shift

# Safe Opioid Use & Safe Medication Use

- ADR, such as opioid-induced respiratory depression require timely intervention as per established hospital protocols
  - Must also report to physician or LIP immediately
  - High alert medications would want to check VS, O<sub>2</sub> sat, (ETCO<sub>2</sub>), and sedation levels to prevent respiratory depression and arrest
  - Staff are expected to include patient's reports of his experience of the medication's effects
  - Educate the patient and family about notifying staff if difficulty breathing

# Safe Opioid Use & Safe Medication Use

- Hospital policy is expected to address the manner and frequency of monitoring
  - Hospital P&P is expected to include information to be communicated at shift change
  - It is important to document order, medication record, lab reports, vital signs etc.
  - Document after actual administration of medication and no documentation in advance
  - Surveyor will make sure staff is knowledgeable about intervention protocol if ADE occurs

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## Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation

Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation

- *APSFS calls for every patient receiving postoperative opioid analgesics to be managed based on the following clinical considerations:*
    - *Individualize the dose and infusion rate of opioid while considering the unique aspects of each patient's history and physical status.*
    - *Make continuous monitoring of oxygenation (pulse oximetry) the routine rather than the exception.*
    - *Assess the need for supplemental oxygen, especially if pulse oximetry or intermittent nurse assessment are the only methods of identifying respiratory hypoventilation.*
    - *With supplemental oxygen titrated, monitoring of ventilation may warrant the use of technology designed to assess breathing or estimate arterial carbon dioxide concentrations. Continuous monitoring is most important for the highest risk patients, but depending on clinical judgment, should be applied to other patients.*

*When supplemental oxygen is indicated, monitoring of ventilation may warrant the use of technology designed to assess breathing or estimate arterial carbon dioxide concentrations. Continuous monitoring is most important for the highest risk patients, but depending on clinical judgment, should be applied to other patients.*

*APSF also has issued a video on opioid induced ventilatory impairment:*  
[http://apsf.org/resources\\_video4.php](http://apsf.org/resources_video4.php)

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The screenshot shows the ASA Standards and Guidelines page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Members, Residents and Students, Public and Media, and Health Professionals. Below the navigation is a search bar and a "Member Sign In" button. The main content area has a header "Standards, Guidelines, Statements and Other Documents". It includes a sidebar with links for "ASA SIGN IN", "ASA STANDARDS, GUIDELINES AND STATEMENTS", "ASA PRACTICE MANAGEMENT", "ASA COMMITTEES", "ASA EDUCATION", and "ASA VIDEOS". There are also sections for "MEETINGS / EVENTS" and "FDA MEDWATCH ALERTS". A "ASA FEATURED PRODUCT" section is present. The right side of the page contains detailed text about the nature of standards, guidelines, and statements, mentioning the ASA House of Delegates' review process and the context of local institutions. At the bottom, there's a "See also: Practice Parameters" link and a "Recommendations and Clinical Management Tools - ASA Committees" link.

## Blood Transfusions

- HHS says there were 13,785,000 units of whole blood and red blood cells were transfused in the US
- Collection, testing, preparation, and storage of blood and blood components are regulated by the FDA
- However, CMS standards govern administration of blood and blood products
- Transfusion errors can be fatal
- Has a number of things that must be in P&Ps

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## Blood Transfusions

- Confirm correct patient
- Verify correct blood product
- Standard calls for two qualified persons, one who is administering the transfusion
  - TJC NPSG allows one person hanging blood if use bar coding
- Document monitoring
- P&P include how frequent you monitor the patient and do vital signs
- How to identify and treat and report any adverse transfusion reaction

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**Blood Components and Blood Administration Procedures**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 13,785,000 units of whole blood and red blood cells were transfused in the United States in 2011<sup>3</sup>. The collection, testing, preparation, and storage of blood and blood components are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. However, administration of blood products via transfusion is governed by §482.23(c)(4). Blood transfusions can be life-saving. However, like IV medications, blood transfusions are not without risk of harm to patients. Transfusion reactions and/or errors can be fatal.

In addition to the safe practices and other safety considerations that apply to all IV medication administration, policies and procedures must address blood administration procedures that are consistent with accepted standards of transfusion practice, including but not limited to:

- Confirming the following prior to each blood transfusion:
  - the patient's identity
  - verification of the right blood product for the right patient

The standard of practice calls for two qualified individuals, one of whom will be administering the transfusion, to perform the confirmation.

- Requirements for patient monitoring, including frequency and documentation of monitoring

**Blood Transfusions**

- Staff must be **competent** in venipuncture
- Competent in using vascular access devices
- Trained in early detection and intervention for opioid over-sedation
- Must document competency
- So make sure nursing education is aware and staff trained in orientation periodically
- Make sure staff educated on P&P

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**Survey Procedure**

- Interview nursing staff on different units who administer IV medications and blood transfusions. Are staff knowledgeable with respect to:
  - Venipuncture techniques
  - Safe medication administration practices, including general practices applying to all types of medications and practices concerning IV tubing and infusion pumps
  - Maintaining fluid and electrolyte balance
  - Patient assessment for risk related to IV medications and appropriate monitoring
  - Early detection and intervention

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## Survey Procedure

- Will look to see if any blood transfusions
- To review staff files for evidence of competency in administering IV medication and blood products
- Surveyor encouraged to watch staff hang blood or observe IV medication given
  - Were safe injection practices followed
  - Was appropriate access for IV medication
  - Are patients monitored for adverse reactions
  - Were transfused patients correctly identified and correct blood administered?

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## Incident Reports A-410

- Standard: There must be procedure for reporting transfusion reactions, adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and errors in administration of drugs
- See tag 508 which was amended 11-20-2015 in the pharmacy section which affects nursing
- Important for staff to be versed in the blood and blood products policy and the symptoms of a transfusion reaction

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### A-0410

(Rev.)

**§482.23(c)(5)** - There must be a hospital procedure for reporting transfusion reactions, adverse drug reactions, and errors in administration of drugs.

*Interpretive Guidelines §482.23(c)(5)*

*Adverse drug reactions and drug administration errors*

*There is a similar but more detailed and prescriptive requirement concerning internal hospital reporting of adverse drug reactions, drug administration errors and incompatibilities under the Physician's Statement of Responsibility. This rule is intended to allow hospitals to establish a different procedure in the case of adverse drug reactions and drug administration errors for such events when nurses administer drugs or transfusions. Consult the guidance for §482.25(b)(6) to see what must be reported, to whom, and in what timeframe. Failure to make required reports concerning adverse drug reactions and errors in administration of drugs should be cited under §482.23(c)(5) when the drug was administered by a nurse, as well as under §482.25(b)(6).*

*Transfusion reactions*

*Transfusion reactions can occur during or after a blood transfusion. A patient's immune system recognizes the foreign blood product and attempts to destroy the transfused cells. Incompatible blood products are typically the cause of transfusion reactions. Symptoms may include back pain, bloody urine, hives, chills, fainting, dizziness, fever, flank pain, and skin flushing. More serious complications may include acute kidney failure, anemia, respiratory distress, shock and even death.*

*Transfusion reactions are serious and can be life-threatening. The hospital must have policies and procedures in place for the internal reporting of transfusion reactions. The policies must*

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## Transfusion Reactions, ADEs, Drug Errors

- Establish a procedure in the case of ADEs and drug errors when nurses administer drugs or transfusions
  - Refers back to tag 508 regarding reporting these into the PI system
  - Often done on an incident report and document in chart and document physician or LIP notified
- Transfusion reactions can be serious and life threatening
  - Discussed the symptoms of a transfusion reaction: chills, hives, back pain, bloody urine, dizziness, fever, flank pain, skin flushing, kidney failure, anemia, shock, respiratory failure or death

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## Transfusion Reactions

- Transfusion reactions can occur during or after a blood transfusion
- Patient's immune system recognized the foreign blood product and attempts to destroy the infused cells
- Incompatible blood products are typically the cause of the transfusion reaction
  - Symptoms may include back pain, bloody urine, hives, chills, fainting, dizziness, fever, flank pain, and skin flushing. More serious complications may include acute kidney failure, anemia, respiratory distress, shock and even death.

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## Transfusion Reactions

- Must have P&P to ensure transfusion reactions are reported
- Must be reported immediately to practitioner
- Must be documented in the chart
- Must be reported to the QAPI program
- Surveyor is suppose to look at the hospital P&P and internal reports of transfusion reactions
- Will ask to see any incident reports

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## Survey procedure

- Request policy for reporting of transfusion reactions
  - They may review the incident reports or other documentation through QAPI program
  - Surveyor is told to interview the nursing staff responsible for administering blood to be sure they are familiar with and complying with the policies
  - Surveyor instructed to ask for transfusion related incident reports and determine if reported to the PI program and to the practitioner responsible for the patient's care

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## So What's in Your Policy?



**University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers**  
**Adult Blood Transfusion Clinical Guidelines**

**Statement of purpose:** It is the goal of the University of Michigan Health System to provide optimal patient care in blood transfusion while judiciously managing resources. The Joint Commission and accrediting organizations require the establishment of procedures to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of blood transfusions. These guidelines are intended to assist in the assessment of transfusion practices. The goal of blood supply is achieved and to establish evidence based criteria for the transfusion of blood products. The transfusion of blood products cannot be anticipated. These guidelines are not intended to override physician judgment.

While the risks of transfusion-transmitted disease have been greatly reduced, transfusion continues to carry significant risks. Established risks include hemolytic reactions, fibrinolysis, allergic reactions, transfusion-related acute lung injury, hypotensive reactions, bacterial contamination, volume overload and route overload. Transfusion has also been associated with adverse clinical outcomes including wound infection, pneumonia, prolonged ventilatory support, acute coronary events, prolonged length of stay and hospital mortality.

#### **Guidelines for blood component transfusion**

**Red Blood Cells**

- Hemodynamically stable anemia without acute coronary syndrome: hemoglobin less than 7 g/dL with a transfusion goal to maintain hemoglobin > 9 g/dL.
- Acute hemorrhage with evidence of hemodynamic instability or inadequate oxygen delivery.
- Symptomatic anemia (including tachycardia, tachypnea, postural hypotension) (anemia threshold less than 10 g/dL) not explained by other causes.
- Chronic transfusion dependent bone marrow syndromes: hemoglobin less than 10 g/dL.
- Transfusion on exchange transfusion for severe sickle syndrome.
- Hemodynamically stable anemia with ischemic heart disease: current evidence does not support routine transfusion for asymptomatic coronary artery disease.

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### So What's In Your Policy?

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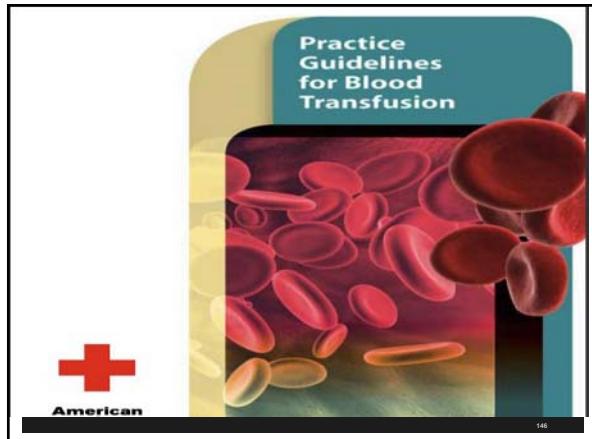
**Title: Blood/Blood Component Transfusion**

Infiltration | Clamp the IV line; restart new IV line and |  
| continue infusing blood / blood products.

\* If necessary, a 20 gauge or 22 gauge may be used.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. Prior to obtaining blood from lab:
  - A. Check chart for M.D. orders.
  - B. Check that a "Consent for Transfusion of Blood and Blood Products for Medical Emergency" has been signed. For patients receiving multiple transfusions over time frame, a consent form is good for one year for the same diagnosis. If a patient signs a "Surgical Treatment or Chemotherapy" form, a blood consent is needed.
  - C. When platelets are being transfused, call the lab to see if the patient needs to be drawn for a pre-platelet count. A post platelet count must also be drawn after platelets are transfused.
- II. Obtaining the blood/blood components from the Laboratory:
  - A. The laboratory will provide the blood component. The availability of products can be reviewed in P.C.I.A.
  - B. Lab technician (when available) will select appropriate bag of blood component.
  - C. Check the blood for any signs of jaundice, hemolysis, gas bubbles, abnormal color, or cloudiness. Check for the following information:
    1. Product name
    2. Unit number
    3. Blood type/group and RH
    4. Lot number
    5. Expiration date and time to be sure unit is not outdated
    6. Type of product
  - D. The RN and Lab personnel will review and compare the information on the "Unit Issue Card"/"Unit Transfusion Card" and the unit of blood/blood component. One will read the information on the unit of blood/blood component and the other will read the information on the transfusion card. The RN and Lab personnel both sign the "Unit Issue Card" after verifying patient/unit data. The "Unit Issue Card" remains in the blood bank until the unit is discarded. A crossmatch slip goes to the floor with the unit of blood/blood component.
- NOTE:** Only one unit may be taken out at a time, unless there is an emergency situation. Blood that is not to be given must be returned to the patient within 20 minutes of leaving the lab, must



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**Guideline Summary**

**Guideline Title:** Transfusion policy for acute anaemia. In: Blood transfusion guideline.

**Bibliographic Source(s):** Transfusion policy for acute anaemia. In: Blood transfusion guideline. Utrecht (The Netherlands): Dutch Institute for Healthcare Improvement (CBO); 2011. p. 166-208. [189 references]

**Guideline Status:** This is the current release of the guideline.

**Jump To:** Guideline Classification | Related Content

- Scope
- Methodology
- Recommendations
- Evidence Supporting the Recommendations
- Benefits/Harms of Implementing the Guideline Recommendations
- Qualifying Statements
- Implementation of the Guideline
- Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Healthcare Quality Report Categories
- Identifying Information and Availability
- Disclaimer

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**Interventions and Practices Considered**

1. Management of acute massive blood loss (decompensated situation)
  - Measures to stop blood loss
  - Rapid 'damage control' surgery
  - Radiological intervention
  - Optimisation of oxygen delivery and correction of acidosis
  - Extramural transfusions
  - Fibrinogen
  - Component transfusions (e.g., 3:1:1 ratio between erythrocytes/plasma/platelets)
  - Preheating of blood components and infusion solutions
  - Tranexamic acid
2. Management of acute massive blood loss (compensated situation)
  - Measures to stop blood loss
  - Optimisation of oxygen transport
  - Establishment of normotension (preheating of blood components and infusion solutions)
  - Erythrocyte washing prior to transfusion
  - Erythrocyte transfusion based on the 4-5-6 rule
  - Transfusion of additional single components
  - Restrictive transfusion policy
3. Management of acute massive blood loss during pregnancy and/or birth
  - Anticipation severe blood loss in high risk patients
  - Autotransfusion: Use of a cell saver
  - Radiological intervention (embolisation)
4. Acute anaemia in the intensive care unit (ICU)
  - Restrictive transfusion policy
5. Establishment of criteria for transfusion on other patient populations
  - Acute anaemia and cardiovascular disease
  - Acute anaemia and cerebral trauma
  - Acute anaemia and hypoxia in combination with anaesthesia
  - Acute post-operative anaemia
  - Children in the ICU
  - Premature neonates
  - Pre-operative surgical blood order lists

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**Annals of Internal Medicine**

**Clinical Guideline**

## Red Blood Cell Transfusion: A Clinical Practice Guideline From the AABB\*

Jeffrey L. Allen, MD; Brian J. Gershman, MD, MPH; Steven Kistman, MD; Alan T. Timenoff, MD; Martin B. Margossian, MD; Mark S. Fung, MD, PhD; John R. Holcomb, MD; Craig Illius, MD; Lewis J. Kaplan, MD; Louis M. Katz, MD; Sunil V. Rao, MD; John D. Roback, MD, PhD; Aryeh Shander, MD; Aaron A.R. Tobian, MD, PhD; Robert Weinstein, MD; Lisa Grace Swinton McLaughlin, MD; and Benjamin Djulbegovic, MD, PhD, for the Clinical Transfusion Medicine Committee of the AABB

**Description:** Although approximately 85 million units of red blood cells (RBCs) are transfused annually worldwide, transfusion practice varies greatly. In 2012, the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) developed this guideline to provide clinical recommendations about hemoglobin concentration thresholds and other clinical issues related to RBC transfusions in hemodynamically stable adults and children.

**METHODS:** These guidelines are based on a systematic review of randomized clinical trials evaluating transfusion thresholds. We performed a literature search from 1950 to February 2011 with no language restrictions. We included studies in which patients had received any RBC transfusion and the number of RBC units transfused to describe the effect of restrictive transfusion strategies on risk. In addition to the main outcome of mortality, we examined other transfusion strategies. For each transfusion strategy, we examined overall mortality, nonfatal myocardial infarction, cardiac events, pulmonary edema, stroke, thromboembolic events, and rates of renal, hepatic, and mental confusion, functional recovery, and length of hospital stay.

**Recommendation 1:** The AABB recommends adhering to a restrictive transfusion strategy ( $\geq 7$  g/dL) in hospitalized, stable patients (Grade: strong recommendation; high-quality evidence).

**Recommendation 2:** The AABB suggests adhering to a restrictive strategy in hospitalized patients with preexisting cardiovascular disease or respiratory disease who have a hemoglobin level of 8 g/dL or less (Grade: weak recommendation; moderate-quality evidence).

**Recommendation 3:** The AABB cannot recommend for or against a liberal or restrictive transfusion threshold for hospitalized, stable patients with the acute coronary syndrome (Grade: uncertain recommendation; very low-quality evidence).

**Recommendation 4:** The AABB suggests that transfusion decisions be guided by symptoms as well as hemoglobin concentration (Grade: weak recommendation; low-quality evidence).

<http://annals.org/suppl/doi/10.1309/ITxM-2012-00002>

Also from [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)  
For author affiliations, see end of text.  
This article was published at [www.annals.org](http://www.annals.org) on 27 March 2012.

A pproximately 15 million red blood cell (RBC) units about withholding RBC transfusion in patients with ischemic

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**ITxM® 100 YEARS IN REVIEW**

The Institute for Transfusion Medicine™ (ITxM™) is one of the nation's foremost organizations specializing in transfusion medicine and related services. For the past two decades, we have had the pleasure of serving the transfusion needs of our patients in the Pittsburgh and Chicago regions and uniformly give their lifesaving blood to help others.

What blood collection is a fundamental part of our organization's purpose, providing safe blood products to those in need. In fact, we collect more than one million blood components each year to people not only in the communities we call home, but also across the country and even the world.

The nations of our services are joined together through our partnership with the University of Illinois Health and ITxM officially begin partnership comprehensive ITxM blood services now offered to UI Health patients.

We invite you to learn more about ITxM and our commitment to deliver world-class transfusion medicine services to you and your patients.

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<http://www.itxm.org>

## CAH Conditions of Participation (CoPs) Nursing: IV Medication and Blood

Manual Updated April 7, 2015





## Medication Assessment 297 2015

### ▪ Assessment of Patients on Medications

- Very concerned about patient having respiratory depression or ADR from opioids
- Must carefully monitor
- May include respiratory status, BP, pulse ox and ETCO<sub>2</sub>
- Evaluate for confusion, agitation, unsteady gait, itching, lethargy, etc.
- Opioids are considered high risk medications

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## ISMP List of High Alert Medication

### ISMP's List of *High-Alert Medications*

High-alert medications are drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when they are used in error. Although mistakes may or may not be more common with these drugs, the consequences of an error are clearly more devastating to patients. We hope you will use this list to identify high-risk medications that require special safety measures to reduce the risk of errors. This list may serve as a starting point for improving access to information about these drugs, limiting access to high-alert medications, using auxiliary labels and automated alerts, standardizing the ordering, storage, preparation, and administration of these products, and employing redundancies such as automated or independent doublechecks when necessary. Manual, manual-independent, double-checks are not always the optimal error-reduction strategy and may not be practical for all of the medications on this list.

#### Classes/Categories of Medications

- adrenergic agonists, IV (e.g., **EPINEPHRINE**, phenylephrine, norepinephrine)
- adrenergic antagonists, IV (e.g., propranolol, metoprolol, labetalol)
- antidiabetic agents, general, inhaled and IV (e.g., propofol, heparin)
- antiarrhythmics, IV (e.g., lidocaine, amiodarone)
- anticoagulant agents, including:
  - anticoagulants (e.g., warfarin, low-molecular-weight heparins, IV unfractionated heparin)
  - Factor Xa inhibitors (e.g., fondaparinux)
  - fibrinolytic agents (e.g., alteplase, streptokinase, tPA, tPA, dabigatran etexilate, lepirudin)

#### Specific Medications

- |  |
|--|
| epinephrine (Isoproterenol), IV              |
| magnesium sulfate injection                  |
| metformin, oral, non-insulin use             |
| metoclopramide, oral, non-oncologic use      |
| opiium tincture                              |
| oxytocin, IV                                 |
| nitroglyceride sodium for injection          |
| potassium chloride for injection concentrate |
| potassium phosphate injection                |
| pronethalol, IV                              |
| vasopressin, IV or intraosseous              |

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## Medication Assessment 297 2015

### ▪ Assessment of Patients on Medications

- Factors that put patients at greater risk for adverse events and respiratory depression
  - Liver or kidney failure
  - History of sleep apnea or snoring
  - Age, thoracic or other surgical incisions
  - History of smoking, pulmonary or cardiac disease
  - First time medication use, receiving benzodiazepines, antihistamines
  - Asthma, Patient weight

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**Medication Assessment 297 2015**

- Need to communicate in report and hand offs
- High alert medications would want to assess sedation level
- Staff are expected to include patient reports of their experience of medication's effects
- Educate the patient and family to notify nurse if any difficulty breathing or ADEs
- P&P must discuss manner and how frequent to monitor patient

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**IV Medication & Blood 297 2015**

- Need correct choice of vascular access devise to deliver blood and medications
- Peripheral catheters, PICC, midlines, central lines, implanted ports and other types of devices
- Need P&P to address which ones can be given IV and via what type of access
- Trace lines and tubes for correct connections and prior to giving meds
- Verify IV pump is properly programmed

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**IV Medication & Blood 297 2015**

- P&P expected to address:
  - Monitoring for fluid and electrolyte imbalance
    - Electrolyte imbalance can occur with IV meds or blood
  - Monitoring of patients receiving high alert medication including opioids
    - How often and what devices such as pulse ox or ETCO<sub>2</sub>, and document pain level, VS, respiratory status and sedation level
  - Monitoring for over-sedation and respiratory depression related to opioid in post-op patients

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**Comparison of Sedation Scales Medscape**

Pain Management Nursing  
Comparison of Selected Sedation Scales for Reporting Opioid-Induced Sedation Assessment  
J Pain Manag Nurs. 2008;16(2):154-164 | Disclosures  
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**Study Aims and Methods**  
The present research study was designed to report measures of reliability and validity of three sedation scales currently used to assess patients receiving opioid analgesics for pain management in non-critical care settings: the Ivrea Health System Acute Care Sedation Scale (IHS), the RASS, and the POSS. The IHS is a valid and reliable scale for assessing sedation for any of these scales in the non-critical care setting. The following research questions were addressed by the study:

Research question 1: Is there a significant difference in validity or reliability between the three sedation scales when used by non-critical care nurses for the measurement of postoperative sedation?

Research question 2: Is there a significant difference in means observed between scales total scores obtained by nurses (measured on a Likert scale) and non-nurses (measured on a Likert scale).

Research question 3: Is there a significant difference in means observed between scales in the nurses' total combined rating of each scale's performance regarding ease of use, information provided to inform clinical decision making, and confidence in score obtained and actions chosen?

The study area had immediate organizational significance, because the scale (the IHS) used to assess opioid-induced sedation at the facility in which the research was conducted had not previously been tested for validity and reliability.

**Editorial Recommendations**  
Vital Signs: Overdoses of Prescription Pain Relievers and Other Drugs Among Women  
Deaths and Severe Adverse Events Associated With Anesthesia-Assisted Rapid Opium Denosification  
Chronic Pain Treatment With Opioid Analgesics  
Is there a significant difference in means observed between scales in the nurses' total combined rating of each scale's performance regarding ease of use, information provided to inform clinical decision making, and confidence in score obtained and actions chosen?

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**ISMP Use a Standard Sedation Scale**

**For Information – Not Required/Not to be Cited**

In addition to assessing risk for respiratory depression, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices recommends hospitals use a standard sedation scale when assessing patients receiving PCA. Scales such as the Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale, Pasero, Ramsey, or Glasgow Coma Scale are useful in assessing sedation.

Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP). Medication Safety Alert – Fatal PCA Adverse Events Continue to Happen... Better Patient Monitoring is Essential to Prevent Harm. May 30, 2013

**Blood Transfusions 297 2015**

- Confirm correct patient
- Verify correct blood product
- Standard calls for two qualified persons, one who is administering the transfusion
  - TJC NPSG allows one person hanging blood if use bar coding
- Document monitoring
- P&P include how frequent you monitor the patient and do vital signs
- How to identify and treat and report any adverse transfusion reaction

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## Thanks for attending! Questions??



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