

High-Alert Medicines

Nursing

The drugs whose errors do disproportionate harm, and the controls built around them.

High-alert means high consequence when wrong, not high likelihood of being wrong.

Commonly listed

Insulins

Opioids and sedatives

Anticoagulants and thrombolytics

Concentrated electrolytes, notably potassium

Chemotherapy agents

Neuromuscular blocking agents

Controls

Independent double-check by a second person

Standard concentrations and pre-filled products

Write units in full; avoid a trailing zero

Separate storage from look-alike products

Smart-pump limits where available

Never store concentrated potassium on wards

Educational reference. Lists and required checks are set by each institution. Follow your own high-alert policy rather than a general list.