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High-alert Medications



What are High-alert Medications?

Drugs that carry a High-alert of causing significant harm to the patient when used incorrectly.

Examples of High-alert Medications:

- 🌸 Blood thinners: Warfarin (Coumadin), Apixaban (Eliquis), Rivaroxaban (Xarelto), Dabigatran (Pradaxa).
- 🌸 Some diabetes-regulating medications such as the sulfonylurea group.
- 🌸 Insulin of all types: (rapid-acting, intermediate-acting, long-acting, mixed insulin)
- 🌸 Narcotic and psychotropic medications.
- 🌸 Highly concentrated salts such as: Potassium chloride.



What are the strategies for dealing with

High-alert Medications?

The patient and their family are educated if they are prescribed a High-alert medication and make sure they understand all medication information such as

- ✓ The correct way to take medication.
- ✓ The importance of medication adherence.
- ✓ Possible effects and side effects of this medication.
- ✓ Correct action in case of a side effects.
- ✓ The proper action in case of forgetting a dose.
- ✓ Proper action in case of overdose.



What are the strategies for Preservation, storage, and disposing of High-alert Medications?

- Like all medications, these should be kept out of the reach of children and in a suitable place at the right temperature.
- Insulin should be stored at refrigerator temperature and shouldn't be frozen.
- Appropriately dispose medications after after the purpose of its use has ended or if it has expired.



Sources and references:

All illustrations used from [canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

Review and audit:

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