

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure		
High Alert Policy – Insulin Policy		
Effective: September 2014	Revised: September 2024	Due for Review: September 2026

POLICY

High Alert medications are drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing significant hospitalized individual harm when they are used in error. Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) has classified Insulin to be a High-Alert Medication. It is the intent of this policy to address specific requirements for Insulin when it is administered to hospitalized individuals.

PROCEDURE


High Alert Medication- Insulin:

- Pharmacy will standardize and limit the number of available Insulin preparations stored at VPCH. Insulin will be housed within the Automated Dispensing System for removal on the two Medication Areas.
 - **Insulin lispro-rapid acting insulin analog**
 - **Insulin glargine-long-acting insulin analog**
- Two Registered Nurses must verify the dose of subcutaneous insulin of all types prior to administration to hospitalized individuals. The Verifying Nurse and the Administering Nurse is responsible for cosigning the insulin order in the electronic medication administration record for each dose administered.
- Per Nursing Policy, the site of administration shall be documented in the electronic medication record. The electronic medication record will prompt the Nurse for site of administration.
- Administering Insulin- Nurse with clean gloved hands will clean the hospitalized individual’s site with alcohol, allow to dry, prior to administering.
- Blood Glucose monitoring – shall be per Physician Order. Blood Glucose measurement will be entered into the hospitalized individual’s medical record

References

Joint Commission MM 01.01.03, MM 01.02.01

Institute of Safe Medical Practices’ (ISMP) List of High Alert Medications

Approved by	Signature	Date
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Mental Health		9/25/2024