

High-alert and hazardous medications & look-alike/sound-alike (LASA) medications in the ambulatory setting



MM 01.01.03

The organization safely manages high-alert and hazardous medications.

EP 1 The organization identifies, in writing, its high-alert and hazardous medications.

Compliance tips:

- ✓ Develop your own list based on unique utilization patterns and internal data about medication errors and sentinel events
- ✓ Collaborate with your pharmacy consultant to help develop your list
- ✓ Review National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) resources to help develop a unique list of high-alert and hazardous medications

EP 2 The organization follows a process for managing high-alert and hazardous medications.

Compliance tips:

- ✓ Segregate medications in different bins or locations
- ✓ Distinguish medications by using "tall man lettering", i.e. upper case letters
- ✓ Sticker identification to identify the high-alert or hazardous medications on your organization's list

VS

MM 01.02.01

The organization addresses the safe use of LASA medications.

EP 1 The organization develops a list of LASA medications it stores, dispenses, or administers.

Compliance tips:

- ✓ Develop your own list based on unique utilization patterns and internal data about medication errors and sentinel events. Reminder, your organization needs to ensure this documented list is unique to the medication used within your organization.
- ✓ Work with your pharmacy consultant to help develop your list
- ✓ The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is a good resource to help your organization develop a unique list of LASA medications.

EP 2 The organization takes action to prevent errors involving the interchange of the medications on its LASA medications.

Compliance tips:

Your organization needs to develop a process or strategy to prevent errors with the use of your identified LASA medications that is developed and implemented throughout your organization.

Common processes or strategies include:

- ✓ Segregate medications in different bins or locations
- ✓ Distinguish medications by using "tall man lettering", i.e. upper case letters
- ✓ Sticker identification to identify LASA medications on your organization's list

Examples in the ambulatory setting:

- ✓ **High-alert and hazardous medications:** opioids, insulin, anticoagulants, neuromuscular blocking agents

- ✓ **LASA medications:** lidocaine (with & without epinephrine), bupivacaine, Benadryl

EP 3 The organization annually reviews and, as necessary, revises its list of LASA medications.

Compliance tips:

- ✓ Review your processes to ensure your list of LASA medications is reviewed on an annual basis
- ✓ Ensure you have a process in place to document the review, and (if applicable), changes, to your list/LASA medications
- ✓ Date stamp the list and/or ensure the information is captured on your annual medication management meeting minutes, which are then reviewed and approved by your governing body

* Note: These are examples. Your organization needs to develop its **own** list of high-alert and LASA medications based on your unique utilization patterns and other internal data about medication errors and sentinel events. Reminder, your organization needs to ensure your documented list is unique to the medications used within your organization (i.e. do not include medications that are not administered within your organization).

*The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is a good resource to help develop a unique list of high-alert and hazardous medications.

*The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is a good resource to help your organization develop a unique list of LASA medications.