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Owner Andrea Darr: Vice President and General Manager, Pharmacy Servi  
Area Pharmacy

## High-Risk Medication

### PURPOSE

High-risk medications will be identified and processes followed to reduce the risk of harm to the patients.

### SCOPE

This High-Risk Medication policy applies to Avel eCare, LLC.

### POLICY

- 1. Chemotherapeutic Agents:** If chemotherapy agents are ordered for a patient, the pharmacist must receive sufficient information to confirm the indication for the medication, the dose, route, frequency, and duration ordered, as well as patient weight, height, and appropriate laboratory data. The pharmacist will compare the dose ordered to published recommendations to verify the appropriateness of the order before the order is approved. All orders for injectable chemotherapy are considered high risk and will require a second check (2 different pharmacists will verify the order as correct).
- 2. Heparin Therapy:** The use of heparin and adjustments should be made by protocol or standing orders at each facility. eCare Pharmacy can only accept orders for pharmacy to dose heparin where a facility-specific protocol is in place, but may provide recommendations in absence of a protocol.
- 3. Warfarin Therapy:** Warfarin therapy will be scheduled at the predefined administration time for each facility. INR data will be reviewed by the eCare pharmacist prior to approval. In addition, the patient's medication list will be examined for the existence of medications which can interact with warfarin therapy. eCare Pharmacy can only accept orders for pharmacy to dose warfarin where a facility-specific protocol is in place, but may provide dosing recommendations in the absence of a protocol.

4. **Other anticoagulation therapy:** Low-molecular weight heparins, and direct oral anticoagulants will be reviewed by the eCare pharmacist for appropriateness according to the patient's indication for therapy, weight, age and renal function. Unless otherwise specified:
  - a. Treatment doses will be entered for immediate administration.
  - b. Prophylaxis will follow facility default dosing times.
5. **Pediatric/Neonatal Doses:** Patient weight is required in order for the pharmacist to evaluate appropriateness of medication orders and must be provided by the hospital staff before the order can be entered/verified by the pharmacist.
6. **In states where the board of pharmacy requires visual verification:** The eCare pharmacist will perform visual verification of any medication not previously approved by a pharmacist at the request of facility staff.

In accordance with ISMP, the following practices are also recommended at the supported facility:

1. **Insulin Therapy:** Nurses should perform an independent double-check of all insulin orders (lab result, original order, product selected, and dose drawn up) according to the process identified at each facility.
2. **Concentrated Electrolytes:** If concentrated electrolytes are available at the facility, they should be stored in the pharmacy (not the nurse medication prep area, including in the automated dispensing machine) to be available for dilution after instruction or consultation with the eCare Pharmacist.
3. **Heparin Therapy:** Heparin infusions should be stocked in premixed solutions. The use of heparin and adjustments should be made by protocol or standing orders at each facility.
4. **Pediatric/Neonatal Doses:** Doses for all pediatric patients should be independently double checked by the nursing staff.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

None

## DEFINITIONS

None

## REFERENCES

None

*This policy was developed as a guide for the delivery of telehealth services and is not intended to define the standard of care. This policy should be used as a guide for the delivery of service, although originating site or Avel eCare personnel may deviate from this guide to provide appropriate individualized care and treatment for each patient.*

## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Policy Owner	Andrea Darr: Vice President and General Manager, Pharmacy Servi	08/2023
Manager Approval	Jeremy Mueller: Pharmacy Manager	08/2023
Manager Approval	Cari Davis: Pharmacy Manager	07/2023

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