



## Patient Safety Goal 3

# Improve the Safety of Medication



### Sound Alike Look Alike Drugs (SALADs)

SALADs are medications that may be confused for one another and lead to potentially harmful medication errors. The hospital SALAD list is based on medication incident reports and on international lists of confused drug names.

### Concentrated Electrolytes

These are concentrated solutions of electrolytes that require dilution or other preparation before intravenous administration. In SVUH, these include: potassium chloride ampoules, potassium phosphate ampoules, and magnesium sulphate 50% (higher strength) ampoules.

### High Alert Medications

These are drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing patient harm when they are used in error. In SVUH, the high alert list includes insulin, opioids, anticoagulants and neuromuscular blocking agents.

How can I, as a member of staff, contribute to this goal?

- Correct prescribing
- Safe storage
- Correct labelling
- Safe handling
- Ensure correct drug identification
- Correct patient identification
- Safe administration
- Adherence to guidelines on the use of these drugs

#### Refer to QPulse for:

PPG-ORG-105: High Alert Medications Policy

PPG-ORG-101: Sound Alike Look Alike Drugs (SALADs)

PPG-ORG-159: Policy for the Use of Oral and Intravenous Potassium and Guideline for the treatment of low potassium (hypokalaemia)

**Refer to:** SVUH Medicines Guide available on SVUH Intranet located under "My Systems"