Medication Management: High-Alert Medications

High-Alert Medications carry a heightened risk of causing patient harm when used in error. High-Alert Medication Examples:

- Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Agent
- Digoxin IB
- Heparin IV bolus and infusion
- Insulin bolus and infusion
- Paralyzing Agents

Medication Safety Tips and Strategies:

- Review storage locations and patient specific doses for High-Alert Medication labeling.
- Utilize bar code scanning system.
- Utilize smart pumps with guardrails.
- Encourage written communication of orders.
- Perform independent double check when clinical systems prompt dual sign off.
- Check for two patient identifiers prior to administration.
- Monitor patient response and/or adverse reaction to the medication.

Refer to the VUMC Policy on High Alert Medication for more information. Refer to the VUMC High Alert Medications Chart: Adult Patients and VUMC High Alert Medications: Pediatric Patients for the complete list of high alert medications.