

# Clinical Excellence Commission

## High-Risk Medicines Standards – High-level summary of changes

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This high-level summary of the changes of the High-Risk Medicines Standards can be used to assist in the review of the documents. Please note this is **not** a comprehensive list of all changes made to the standards.

Standard	Summary of changes
Anticancer medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New standard</b> developed by the CEC Chemotherapy Working Party.</li> </ul>
Anticoagulants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional examples of anticoagulant related errors in the <i>Introduction</i> section.</li> <li>Additional requirements in the <i>Prescribing</i> section relating to omission of doses, dose adjustments, duration of treatment and VTE risk assessment tool.</li> <li>Clarified second dot point in the <i>Storage and supply</i> section surrounding availability of concentrated unfractionated heparin injection ampoules on imprest.</li> <li>Additional requirement in <i>Administration</i> section relating to patients with difficulty swallowing/with enteral feeding tubes.</li> <li>Expanded independent second person check requirements for anticoagulants.</li> <li>Addition of <i>Staff Education</i> section.</li> </ul>
HYDROmorphine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and alignment with ACSQHC <a href="#">Opioid Analgesic Stewardship in Acute Pain Clinical Care Standard</a>.</li> <li>Removal of requirement to include trade name on medication orders in the <i>Prescribing</i> section given the availability of generic alternatives.</li> <li>Examples of opioid calculators including the Faculty of Pain Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists or eviQ Opioid Conversion Calculator.</li> <li>Additional requirement in <i>Patient information/education</i> section relating to use of naloxone on discharge.</li> <li>Addition of the <i>Useful links</i> section with resources from ACI Pain Management Network, CEC Last Days of Life and NSW Health guidelines on opioid dependence.</li> </ul>
Insulin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New standard</b> developed by the CEC Insulin Working Party.</li> </ul>

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Methotrexate (Oral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional requirements in the Prescribing section relating to medication history, units of measure when prescribing and use of electronic Medication Management systems.</li> <li>Pharmaceutical review section placed earlier in standard after the Prescribing section.</li> <li>A number of dot points in the Storage and supply section moved to the Pharmaceutical review section relating to pharmacist review of methotrexate orders.</li> <li>Other considerations section renamed as 'Staff education'.</li> </ul>
Neuromuscular Blocking Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional requirement in <i>Administration</i> section surrounding use of red coloured barrel/plunger syringes.</li> </ul>
Opioid analgesics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements of the ACSQHC <a href="#">Opioid Analgesic Stewardship in Acute Pain Clinical Care Standard</a> considered and incorporated as appropriate, for example use of risk assessment tools to determine patient's functional activity prior to opioid prescribing.</li> <li>Reference to the ANZCA Position statement on acute pain management for prescribing modified-release opioid analgesics in <i>Prescribing</i> section.</li> <li>Resources referenced throughout Standard moved to the <i>Useful links</i> section.</li> <li><i>Additional requirements for prescribing and dispensing opioids on discharge</i> section removed as information duplicated in the <i>Patient information/education</i> section.</li> <li>Additional requirement in the <i>Storage and supply</i> section relating to quantity of opioid medications supplied on discharge.</li> <li>Examples of opioid calculators including the Faculty of Pain Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists or eviQ Opioid Conversion Calculator.</li> </ul>
Paracetamol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional examples of paracetamol related errors in Introduction section.</li> <li>Amendment of first dot point in Prescribing section with additional patient groups for consideration in relation to dose adjustments.</li> <li>Prescribing and Administration section separated into distinct sections.</li> <li>Clarified independent second person check requirements for doses administered to paediatric patients in Administration section.</li> <li>Additional requirement in the Patient information/education section relating to the maximum dose being displayed on the dispensing label.</li> </ul>

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Potassium (Intravenous)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarified first dot point in <i>Storage and supply (Ampoules)</i> section surrounding availability of ampoules of concentrated potassium as ward stock.</li> <li>Additional requirement in <i>Prescribing</i> section relating to the exceptional circumstances of prescribing intravenous potassium chloride.</li> <li>Additional requirement in <i>Administration</i> section relating to cardiac monitoring.</li> </ul>
Vinca alkaloids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadened scope from vincristine to all vinca alkaloids, and amended title accordingly.</li> <li>Removal of third dot point in <i>Minimum requirements for clinical protocols</i> and moved to Anticancer medicines standard as information not relevant to vinca alkaloids.</li> <li>Removal of the <i>Separate supply, delivery and administration of intrathecal medication</i> section and moved to Anticancer medicines standard as information not relevant to vinca alkaloids.</li> <li>Reference to new Anticancer medicines standard in the <i>Introduction</i> section.</li> </ul>