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| High Risk Medications are defined as those which have a heightened risk of causing significant harm if a drug incident occurs. Although incidents may or may not be more common with these medications, the consequences of an error can be severe.For all high risk medications;* Ensure that you are familiar with the drug guideline (where available) before prescribing, dispensing or administering the medication.
* If unsure about their safe use, seek advice from a more experienced colleague.
* Adopt the safest practice possible which may include seeking an independent double check (some medications require double checking as per BHS policy).
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| **High Risk Medication Groups** | **Specific Medications** |
| **A**       **Anti-infectives** | Amphotericin (intravenous, all forms)Aminoglycosides (e.g. gentamicin) Penicillins (risk of anaphylaxis) |
| **P        Potassium & other electrolytes** | Calcium (chloride & gluconate salts)Magnesium sulphate vialsPotassium chloride (intravenous)Potassium acetate Potassium dihydrogen phosphate and dipotassium hydrogen phosphateSodium chloride greater than 0.9% |
| **I         Insulin** | All insulins |
| **N       Narcotics and other sedatives** | **General anaesthetics** - ketamine, inhalational general anaesthetics, propofol, thiopental**Opioids (all routes)** - alfentanil, buprenorphine, codeine,, fentanyl, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, pethidine, remifentanil, tapentadol, tramadol |
| **C       Chemotherapeutic agents** | All anti-cancer therapies, including oral |
| **H       Heparin & other anticoagulants** | AbciximabApixabanBivalirudinDabigatranDalteparinDanaparoidEnoxaparin | EptifibatideFondaparinuxHeparin (unfractionated)RivaroxabanTirofibanWarfarin |
| **OTHER** | **Clozapine****Neuromuscular blockers** |