

# Back to Basics



## Know your high risk medicines

High risk medicines (classified using the APINCH acronym) have an increased risk of causing significant patient harm or death if they are misused or used in error.

Be familiar with high risk medicines in your area and any special considerations for their use. Always double check these medicines prior to administration.

MEDICATION CLASS AND RISK		MEDICINES INCLUDE	
<b>A</b>	<b>ANTIMICROBIALS</b> Risk: toxic in overdose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aminoglycosides (gentamicin, tobramycin and amikacin)</li> <li>• Vancomycin</li> <li>• Amphotericin (conventional and liposomal)</li> </ul>	
<b>P</b>	<b>POTASSIUM AND OTHER CONCENTRATED INTRAVENOUS ELECTROLYTES</b> Risk: cardiac arrest if given rapidly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calcium</li> <li>• Hypertonic sodium chloride</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magnesium</li> <li>• Phosphate</li> <li>• Potassium</li> </ul>
<b>I</b>	<b>INSULIN</b> Risk: hypoglycaemia from overdose or wrong insulin type	All insulins	
	<b>INOTROPES</b> Risk: haemodynamic instability if wrong rate is administered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adrenaline</li> <li>• Dobutamine</li> <li>• Dopamine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milrinone</li> <li>• Noradrenaline</li> </ul>
<b>N</b>	<b>NARCOTICS AND OTHER SEDATIVES</b> Risk: life-threatening respiratory depression from overdose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opioids (morphine, fentanyl and oxycodone)</li> <li>• Sedatives (diazepam, midazolam, propofol and chloral hydrate)</li> </ul>	
	<b>NEUROMUSCULAR BLOCKING AGENTS (NMBAs)</b> Risk: paralysing agent causes respiratory arrest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atracurium</li> <li>• Suxamethonium</li> <li>• Pancuronium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vecuronium</li> <li>• Rocuronium</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	<b>CHEMOTHERAPY</b> Risk: toxicity with overdose or wrong route of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busulfan</li> <li>• Etoposide</li> <li>• Carboplatin</li> <li>• Irinotecan</li> <li>• Cyclophosphamide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methotrexate</li> <li>• Cytarabine</li> <li>• Mercaptopurine</li> <li>• Doxorubicin</li> <li>• Vincristine</li> </ul>
<b>H</b>	<b>HEPARINS AND OTHER ANTICOAGULANTS</b> Risk: haemorrhage from overdose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enoxaparin</li> <li>• Heparin</li> <li>• Warfarin</li> </ul>	



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