Risk assessment tool for the preparation and administration of injectable medicines in clinical areas

by the National Patient Safety Agency (UK)
Safer use of injectable medicines

It is well known and accepted that the incidence of errors in prescribing, preparing and administering injectable medicines is higher than for other forms of medicine. Patient Safety Alerts highlight a number of risks in prescribing, preparing and administering injectable medicines and make recommendations for safer use. It is supported by materials to aid implementation and embed safer practice.¹

**Action for healthcare organizations...**

... should therefore include¹:

1. Risk assessing injectable medicine procedures and products in all clinical areas. Developing an action plan to minimize high risks.

2. Ensuring up-to-date protocols and procedures exist for prescribing, preparing and administering injectable medicines.

3. Ensuring that essential technical information on injectable medicines is available and accessible at the point of use.

4. Implementing a 'purchasing for safety' policy to promote procurement of injectable medicines with inherent safety features.

5. Training and supervising staff.

6. Auditing medication practice with injectable medicines as part of the annual medicines management audit programme.

This Risk assessment tool²³ for the preparation and administration of injectable medicines in clinical areas shall help to reduce risks to patients and improve safety. It shall inform and support healthcare professionals such as physicians, pharmacists and nurses to help ensure their practice is safe and effective.
should therefore include
References related to intravenous drug preparation and administration:

1. www.npsa.nhs.uk/
3. Word file available at www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=59812