

Safe Care Pharmacy Update



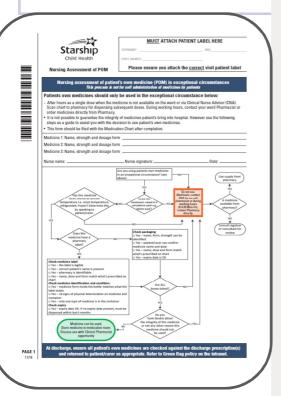
Heparin Stock changing

As a result of a review of several patient safety incidents involving the administration of an incorrect dose of heparin, the variety of heparin stocked within Starship Child Health is being rationalised (as much as able within the wide variety of clinical uses):

- PICU and ward stock of 1000 units/mL and 25000 units/5 mL will be replaced with 5000 units/5 mL
- NICU will continue with 1000 units/mL as currently stocked
- Starship OR, perfusion and CIR will continue with 1000 units/mL and/or
- 25000 units/5 mL as currently stocked
- All areas will continue with 50 units/5 mL (heparin saline flushes) and 200 units/2 mL (for locking central catheters) as currently stocked

The heparin 5000 units/5 mL ampoules are similar in size and volume to the heparin 50 units/5 mL ampoules. To minimise the risk of selecting the incorrect strength, the heparin 5000 units/5 mL will be stored in a closed plastic box. Only the amount that is needed should be removed from the box at a time. Do not leave any ampoules outside of the box.

The plan is to do the swap over on Monday the 21st November 2016.



Need to use a patient's own medicine (POM)?

- There are a small number of times when it may be appropriate to administer a medicine the child's parent has brought with them.
- A clinical form has been developed to assist nurses' decision –making and documentation regarding the suitability of the medicines to be used (& what to do if they are not suitable).
- The Nursing Assessment of POM (CR0515) is a PDF form available in Clinical Forms Library on the Intranet. Print when required, complete all steps and file with the National Medication Chart in the patient's clinical record.
- Nurses' responsibility for safe medicine administration remains the same as when administering medicine dispensed from ACH level 6 Pharmacy.