

# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### MSOS Member Briefing

#### January 2022

*Moderated by: E. Robert Feroli, PharmD, FASHP*



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## Multi-Chamber Bag Parenteral Nutrition (MCB-PN)

**Andrew Mays, PharmD, BCNSP, CNSC**  
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist  
University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Jackson, Mississippi



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### What is MCB-PN?

**ASPEN Definition:** Standardized, Commercially Available Parenteral Nutrition products are formulations available from a manufacturer. These products require fewer compounding steps before administration.

- Examples: multi-chamber bags containing concentrated amino acids (with or without electrolytes) plus concentrated dextrose with or without lipid injectable emulsions
- For ease and purposes of this presentation, we will call these products Multi-Chamber Bag Parenteral Nutrition or **MCB-PN**
- Avoid the term “premixed” as mixing and additives are required

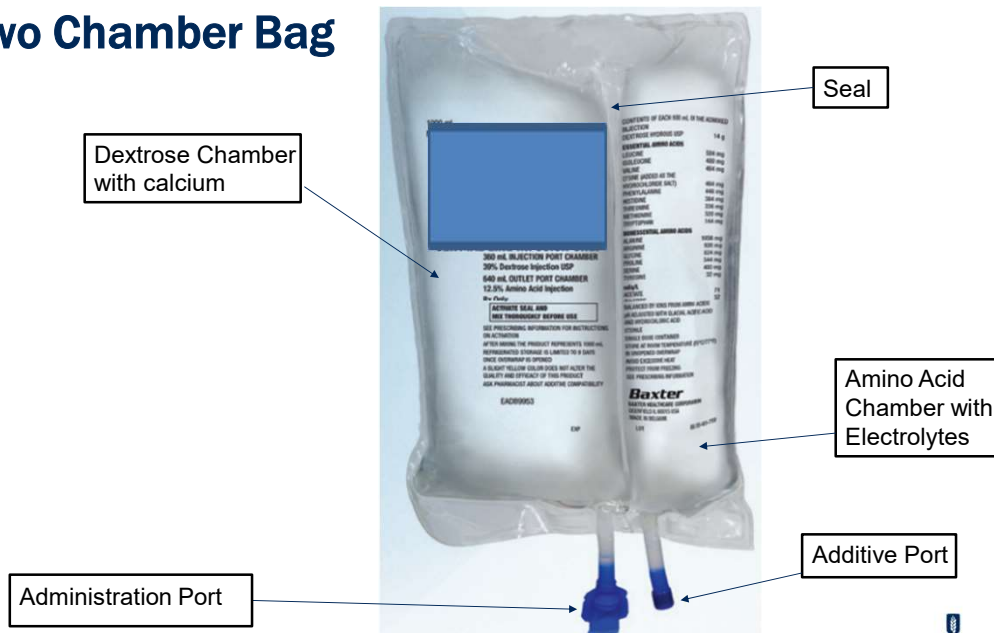
Kochevar M, et al. A.S.P.E.N. Statement on parenteral nutrition standardization. JPEN 2007;31:441-8

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### Two Chamber Bag



<http://www.baxtermedicationdeliveryproducts.com/nutrition/clinimix.html>

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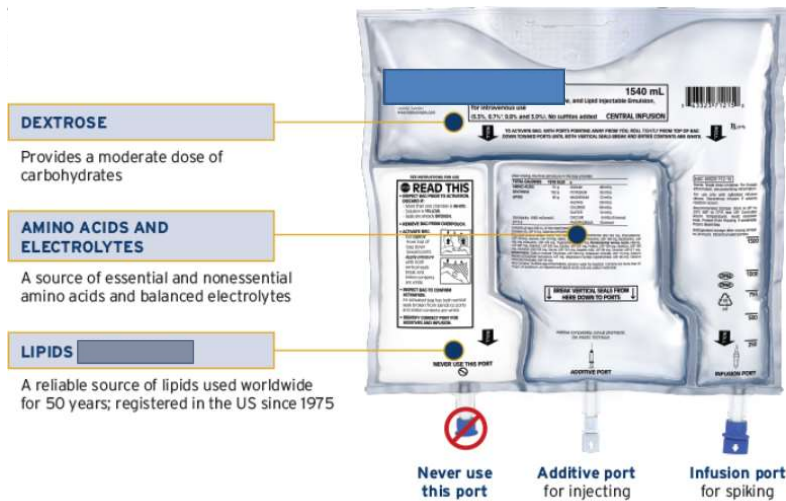


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### Three-Chamber Bag



<http://kabivenusa.com>

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American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

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### MCB-PN Products

Characteristics	2 Chamber	3 Chamber
Venous Access Route	Peripheral or Central*	Peripheral or Central*
Chambers	Amino Acid + Dextrose	Amino Acid + Dextrose + ILE
Volume	1000 mL and 2000 mL	Varies
Electrolytes	With or Without	With
Amino Acid Concentration	2.75% to 8%**	34 g to 85 g per bag
Dextrose Concentration	5% to 25%**	100 g to 250 g per bag

\*Depends on osmolarity

\*\*Macronutrient concentrations varies based upon formulation

<http://www.baxtermedicationdeliveryproducts.com/nutrition/clinimix.html>  
<http://kabivenusa.com>

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*Original Communication*

### A Parenteral Nutrition Use Survey With Gap Analysis

Joseph I. Boullata, PharmD, RPh, BCNSP<sup>1</sup>; Peggi Guenter, PhD, RN<sup>2</sup>; and Jay M. Mirtallo, MS, RPh, BCNSP, FASHP<sup>3</sup>




Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition  
Volume 37 Number 2  
March 2013 212-222  
© 2012 American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition  
DOI: 10.1177/0148607112464781  
jpen.sagepub.com  
hosted at  
online.sagepub.com  


- A survey was completed in 2011
- 21% of respondents to this survey reported using MCB-PN with many due to ongoing parenteral nutrient product shortages
- The use of MCB-PN was greater in those with a census <200 (35.1%) or with ≤5 PN (29.7%)

Boullata J, et al. A Parenteral Nutrition Use Survey With Gap Analysis. JPEN 2013;37:212-222

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## MCB-PN Use in the United States

- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists published data

Methods of Compounding Nutrition Support Preparations	2011 ASHP Data n=559	2014 ASHP Data n=425	2017 ASHP Data n=693
MCB-PN	36%	43%	44.8%
Automated Compounding Method	20.4%	16.8%	14.3%
Gravity Method	17.4%	10.4%	7.7%
Outsourced	14.6%	18.6%	19.5%
No PN Prepared	11.6%	11.2%	13.6%

Pederson CA, et al. ASHP national survey of pharmacy practice in hospital settings: dispensing and administration-2011. Am J Health-System Pharm. 2012;69:768-85.  
 Pederson CA, et al. ASHP national survey of pharmacy practice in hospital settings: dispensing and administration-2014. Am J Health-System Pharm. 2015;72:1119-37.  
 Schneider PJ, et al. ASHP national survey of pharmacy practice in hospital settings: Dispensing and administration-2017. Am J Health Syst Pharm. 2018 Jun 14. pii: ahp180151. doi: 10.2146/ajhp180151. [Epub ahead of print]

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### MCB-PN Safety Issues

- Assessment
  - » Fixed amount in each bag
  - » May not meet all individual patient needs
- Prescribing and Labeling
  - » Ordering will be different from compounded PN
  - » Potentially two systems of ordering PN required
  - » Be aware of labeling and how contents are reported
- Order Review
  - » MCB-PN alone is **not** a complete PN product
  - » Individualized additives
  - » Compatibility and stability review

Ayers P, Adams S, Boullata J, Gervasio J, Holcombe B, Kraft MD, Marshall N, Neal A, Sacks G, Seres DS, Worthington P; American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. A.S.P.E.N. parenteral nutrition safety consensus recommendations. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2014 Mar-Apr;38(3):296-333.

Boullata JI, Gilbert K, Sacks G, Labossiere RJ, Crill C, Goday P, Kumpf VJ, Mattox TW, Plogsted S, Holcombe B; American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. A.S.P.E.N. clinical guidelines: parenteral nutrition ordering, order review, compounding, labeling, and dispensing. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2014 Mar-Apr;38(3):334-77.

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### MCB-PN Safety Issues

- Preparation
  - » Overwrap must be removed
  - » Activation must be done in laminar flow hood
  - » There must be complete activation
  - » Multivitamin and multi-trace elements inappropriately withheld
- Administration
  - » Infusion rate based upon amino acid delivered
  - » Potential for waste or need for multiple bags to meet needs
  - » Potential risk to lose additives

Ayers P, Adams S, Boullata J, Gervasio J, Holcombe B, Kraft MD, Marshall N, Neal A, Sacks G, Seres DS, Worthington P; American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. A.S.P.E.N. parenteral nutrition safety consensus recommendations. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2014 Mar-Apr;38(3):296-333.

Boullata JI, Gilbert K, Sacks G, Labossiere RJ, Crill C, Goday P, Kumpf VJ, Mattox TW, Plogsted S, Holcombe B; American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. A.S.P.E.N. clinical guidelines: parenteral nutrition ordering, order review, compounding, labeling, and dispensing. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2014 Mar-Apr;38(3):334-77.

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### Summary

- MCB-PN may not meet the needs of every patient.
- Ensure that rate is calculated to provide appropriate amino acid.
- There is no data to support the use of MCB-PN as a “base” for compounded PN.
- MCB-PN must be activated in sterile environment (laminar flow hood) before use.
- Hang time should be the same as compounded PN.

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### ASPEN Resources

- ASPEN Parenteral Nutrition Resources Page

» <https://www.nutritioncare.org/PNResources/>

» This page has ASPEN Recommendations, Guidelines, and Educational Resources related to PN.

» Under Educational Resources there is a MCB-PN Educational Video Series.

- **Multi-Chamber Bag Parenteral Nutrition (MCB-PN) Series:** Addresses the appropriate use of multi-chamber bag parenteral nutrition. (Sponsored by Fresenius Kabi) 2018
  - Part 1: [Introduction, Indications, and Decision Tool](#)
  - Part 2: [Prescribing and Order Review](#)
  - Part 3: [Preparing, Labeling, and Dispensing](#)
  - Part 4: [Administration and Monitoring](#)

<https://www.nutritioncare.org/pnresources/>

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### References

- Kochevar M, et al. A.S.P.E.N. Statement on parenteral nutrition standardization. *JPEN* 2007;31:441-8
- Boullata J, et al. A Parenteral Nutrition Use Survey With Gap Analysis. *JPEN* 2013;37:212-222
- Pederson CA, et al. ASHP national survey of pharmacy practice in hospital settings: dispensing and administration-2011. *Am J Health-System Pharm.* 2012;69:768-85.
- Pederson CA, et al. ASHP national survey of pharmacy practice in hospital settings: dispensing and administration-2014. *Am J Health-System Pharm.* 2015;72:1119-37.
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- Boullata JI, Gilbert K, Sacks G, Labossiere RJ, Crill C, Goday P, Kumpf VJ, Mattox TW, Plogsted S, Holcombe B; American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. A.S.P.E.N. clinical guidelines: parenteral nutrition ordering, order review, compounding, labeling, and dispensing. *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr.* 2014 Mar-Apr;38(3):334-77.
- Hall JW. Safety, cost, and clinical considerations for the use of premixed parenteral nutrition. *Nutr Clin Pract.* 2015 Jun;30(3):325-30.
- Ayers P, Adams S, Boullata J, Gervasio J, Holcombe B, Kraft MD, Marshall N, Neal A, Sacks G, Seres DS, Worthington P; American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. A.S.P.E.N. parenteral nutrition safety consensus recommendations. *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr.* 2014 Mar-Apr;38(3):296-333.

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### Questions

Please reach out with any questions.

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### Continuously Inhaled Epoprostenol Safeguards for Adults

January 27, 2022

Sammy Burton, PharmD, FISM

Medication Safety Pharmacist – Smart Pumps



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### Cleveland Clinic Health System

- Main campus
  - 1400-bed academic medical center
- 12 regional hospitals throughout northeast Ohio
- 5 additional hospitals in Florida



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### Background

Historically dispensed inhaled epoprostenol in a mini-bag plus and administered via **dedicated** BodyGuard infusion pumps.

BodyGuard infusion pumps were recalled in early 2020.

Due to time and resource constraints, our only viable replacement option was the Baxter infusion pump (the same pumps used within the system to administer large volume intravenous medications).

**\*\*Safety Risk:** If inhaled epoprostenol is inadvertently administered via the intravenous route, it can be fatal.

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### Prescribing Safeguards

- Restricted to adult Intensive Care Units (ICUs)
- Must be ordered by an ICU staff physician, pulmonary staff physician, or ICU Fellow using the order set

The screenshot shows a medical order set interface. At the top, there's a tab labeled 'Orders' and a 'Clear All Orders' button. Below this, the title 'PULM Epoprostenol Inhalation Protocol' is followed by a link icon. Underneath, it says 'For Physician/LIP use 10/2021' and 'Respiratory Therapy Inhaled Epoprostenol Protocol'. A section titled 'Medications:' is expanded, showing 'Epoprostenol Inhalation:' with a checked box. The details include 'epoprostenol INHALATION 1.5 mg in NaCl 0.9% 50 mL Vial-Bag (VELETRI)', dosage '0.01-0.05 mcg/kg/min x 58.7 kg Ideal weight (1.174-5.87 mL/hr, rounded to 1.17-5.87 mL/hr), INHALATION, CONTINUOUS, Starting today at 1230, Until Discontinued', and instructions 'Administer per ICU INHALED Epoprostenol RT Protocol. Must be administered by Respiratory Therapy Only. Protect From Light'. Below this is an 'Ad hoc Orders' section with a search bar and the text 'You can search for an order by typing in the header of this section.'

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### Prescribing Safeguards (Continued)

epoprostenol INHALATION 1.5 mg in NaCl 0.9% 50 mL Vial-Bag (VELETRI)

**\*\*HIGH RISK MEDICATION\*\***

NOTE:  
This patient's Ideal Body Weight is calculated and less than their Actual Body Weight.  
**Use the Ideal Body Weight for dose selection.**

Reference Links: 1. Drug Info - Adult 2. Drug Info - Peds 3. Respiratory Therapy Inhaled Epoprostenol Protocol

Priority: **STAT**

Dose: 0.01-0.05 mcg/kg/min **0.01-0.05 mcg/kg/min**

Weight Type: **ideal** Order-Specific

Weight: 58.7 kg

Recorded weight: 111 kg (recorded 88 days 10 hours ago)  
Recorded height: 162 cm (recorded 88 days 10 hours ago)

Administer Dose: 0.587-2.935 mcg/min

Router: **INHALATION**

Frequency: **CONTINUOUS**

For: **Hours** **Days**

Starting: 12/8/2021 **Today** **Tomorrow** At: 1230 Show Additional Options

Starting: **Today 1230** **Until Discontinued**

Scheduled Times  
12/08/21 1230

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### Dispensing Safeguards

- Labeling:
  - “For INHALATION only” on batched label
  - For inhalation auxiliary label on outer protect from light bag
- Pyxis storage:
  - Stocked in only the areas where administered
  - “for inhalation” included in the file name
  - NOT available on override
  - Cubie versus matrix pocket
  - Added the following alert:

**NOTICE:**  
This product is for INHALATION only.  
Mix vial contents with mini-bag plus prior to administration. Administer via RT pump only.

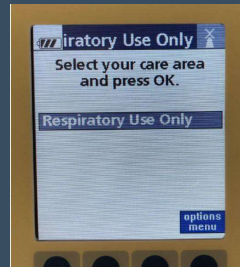
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### Administration Safeguards

- Administration limited to RT only
- **Dedicated** RT pumps with RT-specific library
  - Library only contains two medications:
    - albuterol
    - epoprostenol



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### Administration Safeguards (Continued)

- Drug library build
  - One standardized concentration: 1.5 mg/50 mL
  - HARD lower and upper dose-rate limits
  - HARD lower weight limit of 45 kg
  - Auto keypad lock
  - mL/hr programming disabled

Drug Name	epoprostenol	Drug Alias	
Modifier		Drug ID	233667639
Delivery Mode	Continuous	Delivery Bag	Primary Only, Secondary Not Allowed
Drug Amount	1.5 mg	Secondary Callback	Never
Total Volume	50 mL		
Concentration	0.03 mg/mL		
Dose Mode	mcg/kg/min		
Dose Rate Limits		Bolus/Loading Dose	Clinical Advisory
Weight			
*(At least one upper and one lower limit is required)			
Lower Hard Limit	0.01	mcg/kg/min	
Lower Soft Limit		mcg/kg/min	
Starting Rate		mcg/kg/min	
Upper Soft Limit		mcg/kg/min	
Upper Hard Limit	0.05	mcg/kg/min	
VTBI	50	mL	

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### Education

- Hands-on education for RT
- Lessons Learned flyer sent out to pharmacy, nursing, and anesthesia

Volume 2 Issue 4 Updated October 2021

**Cleveland Clinic Department of Pharmacy**  
**Medication Safety: Lessons Learned**

**PURPOSE:**

- Provide education about RT pump use and associated risks to nursing and anesthesia.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:**

- Pharmacy
- Nursing
- Anesthesia

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Share this alert with the target audience.
- Distribute daily safety message.
- Continue to report medication errors, near misses, and events associated to the Smart Pump Respiratory System (SPRS).

**CONTACTS:**

Rachael Davis, Pharm.D.,  
Clinical Pharmacy  
Medication Safety Services  
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Nursing Unit  
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Nursing Unit  
Dana Moore, Pharm.D.,  
Medication Safety Pharmacist  
Megan Kelly, Pharm.D.,  
Medication Safety Pharmacist  
Shirley Bales, Pharm.D.,  
Smart Pump Pharmacist  
Sally Bales, Pharm.D.,  
Smart Pump Pharmacist  
Katie Bales, Pharm.D.,  
Smart Pump Pharmacist

**SAFETY ALERT: Designated Respiratory Therapy Pumps**

SUMMARY	RISK POINTS
Respiratory therapists (RT) will start to use Baxter Spectrum IQ infusion pumps to administer continuously inhaled Veletri (epratosterol). Because these Baxter large volume pumps are also used for the administration of IV medications by nursing and anesthesia, designated Baxter pumps have been identified and should only be utilized by RT. These pumps will have a painted blue door (see image below). Also, the medication library on these pumps will only allow programming of the following two medications: continuously inhaled epratosterol and continuously inhaled albuterol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuously inhaled epratosterol is prepared in an IV bag even though it is administered via inhalation. There is a possibility that designated RT Baxter pumps could become mixed into regular large volume pump circulation.</li> <li>Only RT administers this medication. Therefore, nursing and anesthesia may not know what the designated pumps are intended for and could use them to administer IV medications.</li> </ul>

**CALL TO ACTION**

If an RT designated pump makes its way into regular circulation, do NOT use this pump to administer any medications, and immediately send the pump to clinical engineering.

**SAFETY TIPS**

Always check the library name before attempting to program any medication into a pump.

- The library name on IV pumps used by nursing and anesthesia will always follow this format: "CCHS + date of library release," for example: "CCHS 06-31-2021"
- The RT designated pump library will always follow this format: "RT + date of library release," for example: "RT 02-09-2021"
- Up-to-date library names can be found on the Smart Pump SharePoint [homepage](#).

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### Safety Challenges

- Baxter pump tubing does not directly connect to Aerogen cup
  - Requires use of an adaptor
  - RT uses different Baxter tubing than nursing that does NOT have any injection ports
- Potential to add/move pumps to the incorrect distribution group, which would result in incorrect library on pump
  - Conduct routine monitoring of pumps assigned to respiratory distribution group
  - Requests submitted to vendor to limit this capability to certain users and automate monitoring



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### Key Takeaways

- Inadvertent intravenous administration of continuously inhaled epoprostenol can lead to significant patient harm.
- The implementation of safeguards throughout the medication use process can help mitigate this risk.
- If an entirely different pump for inhaled administration cannot be implemented, distinguishing the same pump with visual cues and with a specific library is another option to help prevent wrong route administration.
- Ongoing evaluation of the process and safeguards implemented is important to address any new or missed safety concerns.

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## Questions?



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### Medication Safety Topic: Utilizing the EMR to assure safe paralytic infusion practices

Mara Weber PharmD  
OhioHealth Medication Safety Pharmacist

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### Situation

#### – What is happening:

- COVID

- Increasing critical care patients outside large tertiary institutions
- Increasing number of patients on paralytic infusions
- Increasing number of patients transitioning to compassionate care



**How to assure best practices with paralytics in high risk/high  
emotion situations and low familiarity?**

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### Solution

**START  
HERE**

#### – Initiation

- Infusions locked down to order set
- Sedation & Analgesia embedded
- Change in RASS orders
- Nursing Orders

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### Solution

#### – Withdrawal of Care

- Piece less familiar
- How to screen/emphasize risk?
  - Get guideline to teams/providers in the moment?

#### OhioHealth Critical Care Work Team Paralytic Guideline

Drug	Time to Wait to Reassess TOF prior to extubation if on INFUSION	T ½ (min)	Renal/hepatic Adjustment	Time for 95% recovery after one bolus dose
Atracurium	60 min	20	Not Required	60 to 70 min
Cisatracurium	60 min	22-29	Not required	25 to 93 min
Rocuronium	7 hours (or longer in renal/hepatic failure)	84-144 4.3 hours in hepatic failure; 2.4 hours in renal failure	May need dose reduced in hepatic dysfunction;	30 min
Vecuronium	210 min (or longer in renal/hepatic failure)	65-75 Note: Active metabolite with 50-80% activity of parent drug which can result in prolonged paralysis	May need dose reduced in hepatic dysfunction	45-65 min

 OhioHealth

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### Solution

#### – Using Technology in Place

- **Compassionate Care order set for ICU**
  - Pre-existing order set
  - Not widely known outside larger facilities
- **Integrate look back technology to screen for any paralytic in past 12 hours**
- **Integrate practice guideline into actual orders**
- **Socialize & Emphasize the intent/use of the order set**



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### Patient NOT on Paralytic

CareConnect has found NO active neuromuscular blocker infusions, and NO neuromuscular blocker MAR activity in the last 12 hours.  
If you believe a neuromuscular blocker infusion was just recently discontinued, or bolus given, and the patient needs Train of Four assessment before releasing extubation orders, select the first option.

☐ User believes there is an active neuromuscular blocker infusion, or one was just recently discontinued.

☒ CareConnect does NOT find an active Neuromuscular blocker infusion.

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### Provider Feels Patient Has had a Paralytic

CareConnect has found NO active neuromuscular blocker infusions, and NO neuromuscular blocker MAR activity in the last 12 hours.  
If you believe a neuromuscular blocker infusion was just recently discontinued, or bolus given, and the patient needs Train of Four assessment before releasing extubation orders, select the first option.

☒ User believes there is an active neuromuscular blocker infusion, or one was just recently discontinued.

Select the appropriate neuromuscular blocker agent that is active, or was just recently discontinued.

- ☐ atracurium infusion
- ☐ cisatracurium infusion
- ☐ vecuronium infusion
- ☐ rocuronium infusion
- ☐ CareConnect does NOT find an active Neuromuscular blocker infusion.

Choose which  
paralytic that patient  
has received for  
further orders

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CareConnect has found NO active neuromuscular blocker infusions, and NO neuromuscular blocker MAR activity in the last 12 hours.  
If you believe a neuromuscular blocker infusion was just recently discontinued, or bolus given, and the patient needs Train of Four assessment before releasing extubation orders, select the first option.

☒ User believes there is an active neuromuscular blocker infusion, or one was just recently discontinued.

Select the appropriate neuromuscular blocker agent that is active, or was just recently discontinued.

☒ atracurium infusion

☒ Discontinue atracurium drip and assess until no longer paralyzed

Neuromuscular blockade assessment (Train of Four)

ASAP, Once, today at 1026, For 1 occurrence

Obtain Train of Four prior to discontinuing atracurium, Sign and Release, Sign

And

Nursing discontinue atracurium infusion after obtaining Train of Four

Routine, Once, today at 1026, For 1 occurrence

Specify: discontinue atracurium infusion after obtaining Train of Four

Sign and Release, Sign

And

Neuromuscular blockade assessment (Train of Four)

Routine, Every 30 min, First occurrence today at 1126

• Begin assessing Train of Four 60 minutes following discontinuance of atracurium. • Once patient is no longer paralyzed (four twitches returned), discontinue Train of Four and proceed with releasing the signed & held extubation orders as instructed, Sign and Release, Sign

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### Patient IS/HAS been on a paralytic drip

- CareConnect has found an active neuromuscular blocker infusion.
- The defaulted option below will order the discontinuance of the neuromuscular blocker, and Train of Four to ensure patient is not paralyzed when extubated.
- If you do not believe the patient has a neuromuscular blocker to be stopped, you may opt out of Train of Four by selecting the first option, but do so cautiously.

☐ User feels Train of Four orders are not applicable. (Opting out of Train of Four assessment is not recommended.)

☒ Discontinue paralytic infusion, Train of Four as directed prior to releasing extubation orders

☒ Patient is currently on a vecuronium infusion

☒ Discontinue vecuronium drip and assess until no longer paralyzed

Neuromuscular blockade assessment (Train of Four)  
ASAP, Once, today at 1043, For 1 occurrence  
Obtain Train of Four prior to discontinuing vecuronium, Sign and Release, Sign

**And**

Nursing discontinue vecuronium infusion after obtaining Train of Four  
Routine, Once, today at 1043, For 1 occurrence  
Specify: discontinue vecuronium infusion after obtaining Train of Four  
Sign and Release, Sign

**And**

Neuromuscular blockade assessment (Train of Four)  
Routine, Every 30 min, First occurrence today at 1313  
• Begin assessing Train of Four (2 hrs and 30 minutes) following discontinuance of vecuronium. • Once patient is no longer paralyzed (four twitches returned), discontinue Train of Four and proceed with releasing the signed & held extubation orders as instructed, Sign and Release, Sign

Auto links to paralytic patient is/has been on

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#### A FAITH-BASED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

RIVERSIDE METHODIST HOSPITAL + GRANT MEDICAL CENTER + DOCTORS HOSPITAL  
GRADY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL + DUBLIN METHODIST HOSPITAL + DOCTORS HOSPITAL-NELSONVILLE  
HARDIN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL + MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL + REHABILITATION HOSPITAL + O'BLENESS HOSPITAL  
MEDCENTRAL MANSFIELD HOSPITAL + MEDCENTRAL SHELBY HOSPITAL + WESTERVILLE MEDICAL CAMPUS  
HEALTH AND SURGERY CENTERS + PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY CARE + URGENT CARE + WELLNESS  
HOSPICE + HOME CARE + 28,000 PHYSICIANS, ASSOCIATES & VOLUNTEERS

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## ISMP Update MSOS Briefing January 2022

**Michael R. Cohen, RPh, MS, ScD (hon.), DPS (hon.), FASHP**  
President Emeritus  
Institute for Safe Medication Practices

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## Leadership Changes at ISMP

- Rita K. Jew, PharmD, MBA, BCPPS, is now President
- Mike Cohen, RPh, MS, ScD (hon.), DPS (hon.), is now President Emeritus



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### ISMP Medication Safety Summits

- Sterile Compounding Guidelines
  - Posting for public comment in February
- Perioperative Medication Safety Summit
  - Data collection ending February 11, 2022
  - Posting for public comment in April



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### ISMP Top 10 Medication Errors and Hazards for 2021

January 21, 2022 • Volume 27 Issue 2

**Acute Care**  
**ISMP Medication Safety Alert!**  
Educating the Healthcare Community About Safe Medication Practices

**Start the year off right by addressing these Top 10 Medication Safety Concerns from 2021**

**H** Last year began with such hope. Thanks to the availability of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines, society began to gradually return to life as we knew it prior to the pandemic. Sadly, our emergence from the pandemic was delayed with the spread of the delta and omicron variants, shaking our confidence and overwhelming our healthcare providers once again. As we reflect on our newsletters in 2021 and the topics we wrote about last year, it is my wonder that errors with the following COVID-19 vaccines emerged at the top of the list of the Top 10 Medication Safety Concerns from 2021. We believe these medication safety concerns warrant continued attention and priority in 2022, especially if you have not already taken steps to mitigate them.

**1 Mix-ups between the pediatric and adult formulations of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines**

Late in 2021, after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 years, we began to receive reports of mix-ups between the formulation for ages 5 through 11 years (orange cap and label border) and the formulation for individuals 12 (or 16) years or older (purple cap and label border or gray cap and label border). The brand name of FDA-approved vaccine is COMIRNAVY. [www.fda.gov/oc/2021/12/16/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine](https://www.fda.gov/oc/2021/12/16/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine). The labels are not well differentiated, and once the caps are removed, the color difference is less apparent. Even the dose (mL) is not listed on the vaccine labels, which would likely help to differentiate the pediatric and adult formulations. Some of the vaccine mix-ups were due to look-alike vial or syringe mix-ups. In other cases, healthcare providers mistakenly believed it was acceptable to administer a smaller or diluted dose of the vaccine formulation intended for individuals 12 years or older to children ages 5 through 11 years. These mix-ups may have scared people, increased vaccine hesitancy, and weakened public health efforts to get children vaccinated.

To prevent mix-ups, separate the different formulations and label the storage time. Never use vaccine vials formulated for individuals ages 12 (or 16) years or older (purple or gray cap) to prepare doses for children ages 5 through 11 years. Use barcode scanning during vaccine preparation and apply labels to vaccine syringes that differentiate between adult and pediatric doses. Only bring the intended vaccine(s) for one patient at a time into the vaccination area and include the prescriber when verifying the prepared vaccine. Ideally, barcode scanning should be employed prior to administration. Document the lot number and expiration date after vaccine administration, and document administration afterwards. Report any vaccination errors to the FDA Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS, <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>), which is mandatory for COVID-19 vaccine under an EUA, and to the ISMP National Vaccine Errors Reporting Program (ISMP-VERP, [www.ismp.org/verp](https://www.ismp.org/verp)).

**2 Mix-ups between the COVID-19 vaccines or boosters and the 2021-2022 influenza (flu) vaccines**

Once the 2021-2022 flu vaccine became available in September 2021, health authorities strongly encouraged people to receive both the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Worth repeating...**

**Preventing ILE and ViperSide mix-ups**

A June 20, 2022, Safety Brief advised about the possibility of mix-ups between 100 mL bags of INTENSOLIN (insulin glargine emulsion [ILE]) 20% and VIPERSIDE, a non-drug product that acts as a lubricant to reduce friction with devices used during pharmacy procedures. The products have a similar milky white appearance, and both are packaged in flexible bags with a white and blue pattern. VIPERSIDE is a lipid emulsion that has similar components to INTENSOLIN, including sodium chloride, egg yolk phospholipids, glycerin, sodium hydroxide, and water. However, VIPERSIDE contains only 10 g of soybean oil per 100 mL (10%), compared to 20 g of soybean oil per 100 mL (20%) in INTENSOLIN. Both products are sterile. VIPERSIDE may be combined with saline, normal saline, and heparin, and used with these three ingredients via a Y-site, to control osmolarity. [www.ismp.org/safety-brief](https://www.ismp.org/safety-brief).

Sometimes, pharmacy has been asked to prepare ViperSide admixtures on the ViperSide bags may be kept in the pharmacy. In one reported mix-up, ViperSide was purchased by the operating room (OR) but kept in the OR pharmacy to prepare admixtures. When not approaching the expiration date, as it was placed on the pharmacy counter for disposal. A pharmacist thought

continued on page 2 — Worth repeating >



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# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### ISMP Top 10 Medication Errors and Hazards for 2021

1. Mix-ups between different formulations of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
2. Mix-ups between COVID-19 vaccines or boosters and influenza (flu) vaccine.
3. EPINEPHrine administered instead of COVID-19 vaccine.
4. Preparation errors with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
5. Errors and delays with hypertonic sodium chloride.
6. Errors with discontinued or paused infusions.
7. Infection transmission with shared glucometers, fingerstick devices, and insulin pens.
8. Adverse glycemic event errors.
9. Organizations lacking a medication safety officer.
10. Failure to increase error reporting.



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### *New Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices for 2022-2023*

Three new practices added for 2022-2023



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# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### Goals

- To identify, inspire, and mobilize widespread adoption of consensus-based “Best Practices” for specific medication safety issues that continue to cause harmful and even fatal errors.



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### Background

- Initiated in 2014
- Updated every 2 years
- 14 total
  - One in archived status
  - One (#12) was incorporated into another (#15)
- Targeted for the hospital setting; however applicable to other healthcare settings
- Source:
  - ISMP's National Medication Errors Reporting Program (MERP)
  - ISMP's National Vaccine Errors Reporting Program (VERP)
  - Cases from literature, media reports, ECRI



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# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### Process

- MERP and VERP review
- ISMP professional staff brainstorming session
- Best Practice Expert Advisory Panel brainstorming session
- In depth review of specific events and recommendations
- Formulation of Best Practice statements
- ISMP professional staff review
- Best Practice Expert Advisory Panel approval
- ISMP Board of Directors approval



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### Team

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| — Gregory Burger  | — Amy L. Potts     |
| — David Caron     | — Georgene Saliba  |
| — Michael Dejos   | — Brigitta Mueller |
| — Michael Ganio   | — E. Robert Feroli |
| — Patricia Kienle | — Elizabeth Rebo   |
| — MiKaela Olsen   | — Rabih Dabliz     |



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# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### Problem: Medication safety concerns with oxytocin

- Accidental ordering of oxytocin instead of OxyContin (oxycodone hydrochloride)
- Mix-ups between Pitocin (Par Pharmaceutical) and Pitressin (former brand of vasopressin) vials
- Administration of unlabeled oxytocin infusion bags and infusion rate confusion
- Inadvertent bolus doses from leftover drug in tubing of infusion that has been stopped
- Others



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### *New Best Practice*

Safeguard against errors with oxytocin use



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# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### Problem: Barcode Medication Administration often not used outside of hospital inpatient areas

- ISMP has received error reports in which emergency department patients, in absence of barcode scanning, have been administered the wrong drug or a drug was given to the wrong patient
- Leapfrog Hospital Survey
  - 45% fully meet Leapfrog's standard for barcode medication administration
  - Scan both a patient's wristband and medication when administering at least 95% of the time
  - Achieved by 70% of hospitals
- ISMP: Often limited to 'inpatient' areas but not transient clinical areas, procedural areas, or temporary patient duration (e.g., emergency department, perioperative areas, infusion clinics, dialysis centers, radiology, labor and delivery areas, catheterization laboratory, outpatient areas).



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### *New Best Practice*

Maximize the use of barcode verification prior to medication and vaccine administration by expanding use beyond inpatient care areas



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# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### Problem: Events continue to happen with medications known to be 'high-alert'

- Management plans rely on low-leverage risk-reduction strategies
- Often the common strategy is focused on identification
  - Increase awareness
  - Education
  - Adding auxiliary labels to container
- Another common strategy is to require independent double checks but too often these are overused
- Rarely do strategies span the entire medication use process



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### *New Best Practice*

Layer numerous strategies throughout the medication use process to improve safety with high-alert medications



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# MSOS Member Briefing

## January 2022

### Questions?



- A copy of today's slides will be posted on our website
- Next MSOS Briefing date – March 24, 2022.

