

CRITICAL MEDICINES

The Trust has an approved list of CRITICAL MEDICINES:

Anti-Coagulants
Anti-Convulsants for seizure control (including benzodiazepines for seizure termination)
Anti-Cancer drugs and the medication required to prevent their immediate side effects
Systemic Anti-Infectives (Oral, IV and IM formulations)
Anti-Parkinson's medication
Clozapine
Insulin and other anti-diabetic medication
Lithium
Systemic corticosteroids e.g. prednisolone, hydrocortisone, fludrocortisone <u>AND</u> high dose steroid inhalers

TIMELINESS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THESE MEDICATIONS IS CRUCIAL

ANY ACTION TAKEN DUE TO THE OMISSION OR DELAYED ADMINISTRATION OF THIS MEDICATION SHOULD BE RECORDED IN THE PATIENTS NOTES AND ON THE EPMA MAR CHART

Additional information:

All Critical medicines should be endorsed appropriately on the EPMAMAR charts with the words "CRITICAL MEDICINE" documented in the administration instructions of the prescription.

All oral anticonvulsants AND benzodiazepines prescribed for seizure termination (usually prescribed PRN) e.g. diazepam PR or midazolam S/L are critical.

Please note that a number of anti-convulsant medications are indicated for psychotropic use and they are only critical if prescribed for anti-convulsant purposes e.g. sodium valproate, lamotrigine, carbamazepine.

All formulations of systemic anti-infectives are regarded as critical: PO, IV, IM. This is excluding topical preparations e.g. fusidic acid cream.

High dose steroid inhalers are a new addition to the critical medicines list. See the link below to NICE guidance regarding which doses constitute as high dose inhaled corticosteroid:
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng80/resources/inhaled-corticosteroid-doses-pdf-4731528781>

Omission of these medicines can have a detrimental effect on a patient's condition leading to serious harm or death (NPSA/2010/RRR09). This list is not exhaustive as other medicines may be critical in specific circumstances and it is the prescriber's responsibility to make this clear on the prescription.

Approved by DTG Nov 2020