

HYDROmorphone 1 mg ~ Morphine 7 mg

HYDROmorphone = The most common medication associated with harmful medication incidents reported to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada¹

Risk Control Strategies for Reducing Patient Harm with HYDROmorphone²

- Differentiate HYDROmorphone from morphine where both products are available (use Tall Man Lettering on labels, order sets, order entry screens, medication administration records, etc.)
- Include the brand name Dilaudid® on order sets, order entry screens, medication administration records, etc., to help differentiate HYDROmorphone from morphine
- Avoid stocking HYDROmorphone injection in prefilled syringes in the same strength as morphine
- Post equianalgesic dosing charts in patient care areas, in computerized prescriber order entry systems and pharmacy information systems, and on medication administration records
- Limit the starting doses of HYDROmorphone to 0.5 mg (particularly for opioid-naïve patients and those with other risk factors such as obesity, asthma, obstructive sleep apnea or those receiving other medications that can potentiate the effects of HYDROmorphone)
- Perform independent double checks when HYDROmorphone is removed from stock
- Ensure everyone on the team knows the difference between HYDROmorphone and morphine!

References:

1. ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin Nov. 4, 2013; 13(10).
2. Adapted from ISMP Canada. Hydromorphone: Helping You Remember. Online at <http://www.ismp.org/tools/hydromorphone.asp>.