



Safety Alert

Color-coded Labels for Intravenous (IV) Medications

“Sharing Lessons Learned”

Situation:

Many incidents were reported related to missing IV medication doses and delays in preparation, in addition to the difficulties in tracking the returned IV medications or missing doses.

Background:

All IV medication labels are printed in yellow. After medication preparation, the Pharmacist cannot identify which one is **STAT / NOW / missing dose** versus the **Routine (ongoing doses needed for next 24 hours)**.



Assessment:

Inpatient Pharmacy has to check each IV label(s), in order to sort them out and find the selected doses, based on the instruction on the label(s). Nurses might use the routine doses instead of IV missing doses.

Recommendation:

Effective from **Sunday, Mar 8th 2020**, the Inpatient Pharmacy started printing all IV **Routine** label(s) on **Blue** (instead of yellow). **Yellow** labels will be only for **IV Stat, Now** and **Missing** doses, as per pictures.



This will improve the tracking process of identifying IV STAT/ NOW / missing doses visually, which will assist prioritizing the orders by both Pharmacist (preparation) & Nurses (administration).

Prepared by: Medication Safety Committee