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| **Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance** |
| **1. Clinical Policies and Procedures** | Original Issue Date:  | April 03, 2018 |
| **Medication - Direct Intravenous (IV) Medication Administration for Nurses (RNs and RPNs)** | Review/Effective Date:  | April 03, 2018 |
| **Approved By: VP People and Chief Quality Executive** | Next Review Date:  | April 03, 2020 |

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| **Scope:** This policy applies to Registered Nurses who have received appropriate theoretical preparation and who have met the competency requirements listed in this policy to prepare, administer and monitor the delivery of medications by the intravenous (IV) direct injection route. This policy also applies to Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) on clinical units which have formally participated in the Nurse Champion Program for IV direct medication administration, who have received appropriate theoretical preparation and who have met the competency requirements listed in this policy to prepare, administer and monitor the delivery of medications by the intravenous (IV) direct injection route.

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| **Policy:** Administration of medication via the IV direct route is a skill that nurses have the authority to perform, provided the nurse has the appropriate training, knowledge, skill and judgement as per the Regulated Health Professionals Act 1991. Refer to the College of Nurses of Ontario standard  “Decisions about Procedures and Authority” <http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41071_decisions.pdf> Nurses must have the knowledge, skill and ability to identify any risks and precautions, manage any adverse reactions and provide ongoing assessment and monitoring of the patient prior to, during and post IV direct medication administration.

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| Nurses employed at HPHA will have been considered to have received the appropriate training after the associated educational requirements have been met. **Purpose:** This policy, in addition to the Elsevier skill module [Medication Administration-IV Direct](https://lms.elsevierperformancemanager.com/ContentArea/NursingSkills/GetNursingSkillsDetails?skillid=GN_21_8&skillkeyid=604&searchTerm=Medication%20Administration-IV%20Direct&searchContext=home), describe steps involved with the preparation, initiation and monitoring of the delivery of medications IV direct. This policy acts as a guideline for Nurses (RNs and RPNs) to safely apply best practice in the provision of high quality care for the patient requiring medication administration by the IV direct route. This policy also outlines the competency requirements for both RN’s and RPN’s as it relates to the preparation, administration and monitoring of patients receiving intravenous medications by the IV direct route.  It is expected that nursing staff shall adhere to the principles outlined in this policy as well as the associated Elsevier Module: Medication Administration IV Direct.  |

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**Definitions:** IV direct: refers to the manual administration of a relatively small volume of a concentrated solution or medication directly into the venous system via a peripheral or central venous access device (CVAD). Nurses: in this document the word “nurse(s)” will be used for references to Registered Nurses (RNs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs). IV: within a vein; indicates the abbreviation for “intravenous”. Indications: The IV direct route may be utilized: · When an immediate drug effect is needed; · When identified as being appropriate for the patient’s condition; · When identified as being an appropriate route to administer the ordered medication by the Ottawa Parenteral Drug Manual, Lexicomp or other HPHA approved pharmacy resources. **Additional Requirements:** Nurses must check the medication monograph in the Ottawa Parenteral Drug Therapy Manual, Lexicomp or other HPHA-approved pharmacy resource prior to IV direct medication administration. Rate of administration, appropriate preparation, compatibility of solutions and potential adverse effects must be reviewed. Nurses must document medication administration as per documentation standards. A medication must not be given IV direct in clinical areas where monitoring requirements as outlined by the Ottawa Manual, Lexicomp or other HPHA approved pharmacy resource or as ordered by the Most Responsible Physician cannot be achieved.**RPN Practice Context:**IV direct administration is associated with a higher degree of risk and negative patient outcomes. Patients requiring IV direct medications also present a higher degree of unpredictability. There are certain patient instances that prevent the RPN from administering IV direct medication(s).  These include but are not limited to: ·       patients with complex needs ·       patients with unknown and/or unestablished  plans of care ·       patients with frequently changing conditions and/or unpredictable outcomes. **Situations which prevent an RPN from administering medications IV direct:**

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| **Patient Situation**  | **Rationale**  |
| Any medication that could immediately (within 5-10 minutes) significantly impact the hemodynamic stability of the client.  | Requires advanced nursing assessment skills and decision making.  |
| Any medication appearing on the HPHA List of High-Alert Medications to be given via the IV direct route as per the medication monograph in the Ottawa Parenteral Drug Therapy Manual/Lexicomp or other HPHA approved pharmacy resource.  [/myalliance/doc.aspx?id=4212](https://intranet.hpha.ca/myalliance/doc.aspx?id=4212)    | Monitoring of these patients require advanced nursing skill and decision making.    High alert medications are drugs that bear a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm (HPHA List of High Alert Medications, 2014).   |
| A medication that requires the interpretation of additional assessment parameters outside of normal vital sign monitoring before, during or after administration (for example: hemodynamic monitoring, cardiac rhythm or fetal monitoring, etc.).  | Interpretation of this data requires advanced decision making and assessment. If additional monitoring is required, this implies that the patient’s condition is by nature uncertain and/or unpredictable.  |

**Competency Requirements:** All Nurses having had the appropriate theoretical preparation and understanding of the underlying condition for which IV medication administration is deemed appropriate upon order by a physician and having demonstrated the appropriate knowledge, skills and judgement may administer medications via the IV direct route. All Nurses shall: · Review the HPHA Policy and Procedure: Medication - Direct Intravenous (IV) Medication Administration for Nurses (RNs and RPNs) · Review the CNO Practice Standard: Medication <http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41007_medication.pdf> · Complete the Elsevier Module: Medication Administration-IV Direct · Achieve a passing grade of 100% on the Elsevier Medication Administration-IV Direct module test and print the certificate for their own record of learning. **Procedure:** See Elsevier Module: [Medication Administration-IV Direct](https://mns.elsevierperformancemanager.com/SkillsConnect/Default.aspx?Token=1046880&SkillID=604) for complete step-by-step procedure on IV direct medication administration. **Related Resources:**· eTRAIN Module: [IV Therapy: Initiation](https://elearn.hpha.ca/course/view.php?id=112) · eTRAIN Module: [IV Therapy: Discontinuation](https://elearn.hpha.ca/course/view.php?id=112) · College of Nurses of Ontario standard – “Decisions about Procedures and Authority” <http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41071_decisions.pdf> · HPHA List of High-Alert Medications: [/myalliance/doc.aspx?id=4212](https://intranet.hpha.ca/myalliance/doc.aspx?id=4212) **References** College of Nurses of Ontario. (2014). Practice Guideline: RN and RPN Practice: The Client, the Nurse and the Environment. Retrieved from <http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41062.pdf>  College of Nurses of Ontario. (2017). Practice Guideline: Medication. <http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41007_medication.pdf> Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance. (2014). HPHA List of High Alert Medications. Retrieved from [/myalliance/doc.aspx?id=4212](https://intranet.hpha.ca/myalliance/doc.aspx?id=4212)&documentRender.GenericField=1&documentRender.Id=65134 |
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Nova Scotia Health Authority. (2012). Intravenous Medication Administration Competency Guide For Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). Retrieved from <http://policy.nshealth.ca/site_published/nsha/document_render.aspx?documentRender.IdTyye=31> Saskatoon Health Region. (2013). Intravenous-Push Medication Administration. Retrieved from <https://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/about/NursingManual/1089.pdf> prior to use.  |