

 University Health™	POLICY#: 2.1
SUBJECT: High Risk – Promethazine	Effective: 10/01/13
APPROVED BY: Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee	Page 1 of 1

Purpose: To identify Promethazine as a high alert medication and provide guidelines for the safe intravenous administration of this medication to patients.

Prescribing:

1. Nausea/Vomiting
2. Symptomatic treatment of various allergic conditions
3. Insomnia

Dispensing:

1. Pharmacy will only dispense 25mg/ml vials of Promethazine for intravenous use.
2. Pharmacy will also dispense a 10 cc vial of Normal Saline

Administration:

1. Promethazine will only be administered through a large patent vein (avoid hand and/or wrist veins)
2. The administration rate should not exceed 25 mg per minute (push slowly at a minimum of 2 minutes)

Monitoring:

1. The injection site will be monitored for evidence of a reaction

Adverse Effects:

1. Sedation, drowsiness, fatigue
2. Blurred vision
3. Thickening of bronchial secretions
4. Severe tissue damage can occur regardless of the route of parenteral administration, although intravenous and inadvertent intra-arterial or subcutaneous administration results in more significant complications, including: burning, erythema, pain, swelling, severe spasm of vessels, thrombophlebitis, venous thrombosis, phlebitis, nerve damage, paralysis, abscess, tissue necrosis, and gangrene. Sometimes surgical intervention has been required, including fasciotomy, skin graft, and even amputation. (1)

Safety Strategies in Place:

The medication record in the electronic health record only offers promethazine in a diluted presentation with normal saline (10ml)

References:

1. ISMP Medication Safety Alert: (<http://www.ismp.org/Newsletters/acutecare/articles/20060810.asp>)
2. Food and Drug Administration: (<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/DrugSafetyInformationforHealthcareProfessionals/ucm182169.htm>)
3. Paparella S. The Danger of Intravenous Promethazine Administration. J Emerg Nurs 2007; 33:53-56