University Health™	**POLICY#: 3.3**
SUBJECT: High Risk – Epoprostenol	**Effective: 10/01/13**
APPROVED BY: Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee	Page 1 of 1

Purpose: To provide guidelines for the administration of epoprostenol (Flolan®) in patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.

Prescribing:

1. Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
2. Restricted to:
    a. Adult Pulmonology
    b. Pediatric Cardiology

Dispensing:

1. Pharmacy will dispense titratable IVPB for in-house initiation
2. Pharmacy will dispense cartridges for patients admitted on maintenance infusions
3. Patients should remain on same brand of medication if possible.
4. Epoprostenol will be reconstituted with the sterile diluents provided by the manufacturer.

Administration:

1. Epoprostenol must be initiated in the intensive care unit; Epoprostenol maintenance infusions may be continued in all care areas
2. Must be administered through a central line.
3. An electronic infusion pump must be used for all patients
4. A backup cartridge or IVPB must be maintained in the medication refrigerator on the respective unit.
    a. Reconstituted epoprostenol is stable for 48 hours refrigerated
    b. Reconstituted epoprostenol is stable for 8 hours at room temperature
5. 24 hour infusion cartridges should be maintained with icepacks for stability.

Monitoring:

1. Vital signs: BP, HR, RR, O_2 saturation

Adverse Effects:

1. Rebound pulmonary hypertension.
2. Bradycardia or tachycardia
3. Hypotension, flushing, dizziness, headache
4. Diarrhea, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting
5. Hemorrhage

References:

1. DrugDex. Micromedex 2.0.