

## Invitation to Participate

### Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is pleased to provide our nation's healthcare providers with the **ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® for High-Alert Medications**. This tool, funded by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), offers hospitals, long-term care facilities, and certain outpatient facilities, such as ambulatory surgery centers, emergency/urgent care facilities, oncology clinics, treatment centers, dental surgery centers, endoscopy centers, and diagnostic testing centers, a unique opportunity to assess the safety of systems and practices associated with up to 11 categories of high-alert medications. ISMP defines high-alert medications as those bearing a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when used in error.

The assessment items were assembled by ISMP working with an expert Advisory Group to ensure that the systems and practices most critical to patient safety were included and achievable in many healthcare facilities. As with our past **ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment®** tools, many key organizations have endorsed or supported the **ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® for High-Alert Medications** and offered their ongoing support of this important endeavor. Our endorsers' names appear on the previous page, and their logos appear on the back cover and on our website.

Healthcare facilities that complete the assessment for any or all of the targeted high-alert medications will be able to identify specific challenges and opportunities for improvement as well as track their experiences over time. Use of the self assessment will also help providers meet or gauge their compliance with managing high-alert medications as required by various state and federal regulatory agencies, such as The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Healthcare facilities that submit their assessment findings to ISMP anonymously via a secure internet portal by **December 15, 2017**, will also be able to obtain weighted scores for each item based on their effectiveness in reducing the risk of errors, as well as access aggregate data to compare their individual experiences to the aggregate experiences of demographically similar healthcare providers.

In addition to the usual high standard of confidentiality associated with any information submitted to ISMP, we are also a federally certified patient safety organization (PSO). If self-assessment information is collected within the health system's patient safety evaluation system and submitted to ISMP as patient safety work product, the information is granted protection from discovery in connection with a federal, state, or local civil, administrative, or disciplinary proceeding. No contract with ISMP is required for this legal protection.

As with the data submitted by thousands of healthcare providers in response to our prior **ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment®** tools, we will use the aggregate findings to develop tools and plan curricula and other means of support to assist you in enhancing safety when using high-alert medications. Additionally, an analysis of the aggregate results will be submitted for publication in a professional journal to detail our nation's baseline efforts to prevent patient harm from errors associated with high-alert medications.

ISMP, FDA, and the endorsing organizations encourage you to participate in this very important endeavor by completing the self assessment as directed in the instructions and by submitting your findings anonymously to ISMP. We welcome the opportunity to work with you as you assess the safe use of high-alert medications in your organization!

Warm regards,



Michael R. Cohen, RPh, MS, ScD (hon), DPS (hon), FASHP