

Institute for Safe Medication Practices
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**Near Miss Dosing Error for
Unapproved Drug Used to Hasten COVID Recovery**

Horsham, Pa. —The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) special edition of the *ISMP Medication Safety Alert!*[®] acute care newsletter this week provides information on an error-prone dose expression on the label of an unapproved drug, ascorbic acid, that is being used to hasten recovery in COVID-19 patients. It also presents highlights from a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinar on the response of two health systems to the pandemic.

In addition, the fifth special edition includes insight and tips on:

- Identifying drugs used to treat COVID-19 that may cause heart arrhythmias
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) study on decontamination of N95 respirators
- Warning patients not to take ivermectin products meant for animals to “cure” COVID-19
- Healthcare professionals tripping on IV extension set tubing when pumps placed in hallways

The special edition newsletters are being made available for free to the general public as well as subscribers. To access a copy, visit: <https://ismp.org/acute-care/special-edition-medication-safety-alert-april-23-2020/covid-19>. Please note that access may require free registration.

About the Institute for Safe Medication Practices

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is the only 501c (3) nonprofit organization devoted entirely to preventing medication errors. ISMP is known and respected as the gold standard for medication safety information. For more than 25 years, it also has served as a vital force for progress. ISMP’s advocacy work alone has resulted in numerous necessary changes in clinical practice, public policy, and drug labeling and packaging. Among its many initiatives, ISMP runs the only national voluntary practitioner medication error reporting program, publishes newsletters with real-time error information read and trusted throughout the global healthcare community, and offers a wide range of unique educational programs, tools, and guidelines. In 2020, ISMP formally affiliated with ECRI to create one of the largest healthcare quality and safety entities in the world. As an independent watchdog organization, ISMP receives no advertising revenue and depends entirely on charitable donations, educational grants, newsletter subscriptions, and volunteer efforts to pursue its life-saving work. Learn more at www.ismp.org.

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