

Institute for Safe Medication Practices
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**ISMP Alerts Healthcare Practitioners about
Medication Errors and Hazards Related to COVID-19**

Horsham, Pa. —The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) special edition of the *ISMP Medication Safety Alert!*® acute care newsletter this week provides details on reports of emerging medication-related events and risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The issue highlights a hospital compounding error due in part to confusion over the labeling of remdesivir as an investigational drug, which led to overdoses in patients.

ISMP also provides an alert that a double concentration (2%) of propofol has been approved for marketing in the US to address pending shortages, which may lead to overdoses if healthcare practitioners are not aware that the concentration is higher than what is currently available.

In addition, this special edition includes insight and tips on:

- Impact of COVID-19 staffing changes, including failure to engage BCMA
- Inability to weigh patients during telehealth encounters
- Missing doses, especially with albuterol inhalers, for COVID-19 patients
- “VL” search in automated dispensing cabinet that led to verapamil instead of Versed
- Mix-up between compounded hydroxychloroquine and hydrochlorothiazide oral suspension

The special edition newsletters are being made available for free to the general public as well as subscribers. To access a copy, visit: <https://www.ismp.org/acute-care/special-edition-medication-safety-alert-may-14-2020>. 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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