



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

RE: HANDLING OF HIGH-ALERT MEDICINES IN THE FACILITIES

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (hereinafter "The Board") is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) established under the Ministry of Health, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244, Laws of Kenya (hereinafter "the Act") mandated under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act (CAP 244) to protect and promote the health of the public by regulating the profession of pharmacy and ensuring access to quality, safe and efficacious health products and technologies (HPTs).

In execution of the foregoing mandate, the Board would like to issue the following safety communication on high-alert medicines. "High-risk (high-alert) medicines" refer to those that have a significantly increased potential to cause harm if administered incorrectly. Due to the risk of severe patient harm or even death associated with these medicines, special safeguards are necessary to ensure their safe use. Examples of high alert medicines include: insulin, opioids, anticoagulants, chemotherapy agents, concentrated electrolytes (e.g., potassium chloride), anesthetic agents, and dialysis solutions.

The Board, therefore, urges healthcare professionals to exercise heightened vigilance in the following areas:

1. **Procurement:** Avoid products that are Look-alike Sound-alike (LASA)
2. **Storing HPTs:** Clearly separate and distinctly label Look-alike Sound-alike products within healthcare facilities;
: Store the products as per manufacturer's specifications;
3. **Prescribing:** Always verify the correct drug, dose, route, frequency, and patient;
4. **Dispensing:** Implement an independent double-check process before dispensing, especially for LASA medications;
5. **Reporting :** You are encouraged to report any incidences that may arise From such health products and technologies (HPTs).

The Board is committed to monitoring the quality, safety, and efficacy of all HPTs in the Kenyan market.

The Board would like to thank healthcare providers for their continued efforts to ensure the safe use of medicines. We encourage you to provide feedback by contacting us via **0795 743 040** or email pv@ppb.go.ke. Additionally, please report any suspected adverse events or substandard health products and technologies at <http://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org> or through the mobile application, MPvERS (on App Store and Play Store).



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

29TH MAY 2025