

# Watch Out *for...*

# High Risk Moments in ICU

Watch Out Notice: 06

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## What is this?

A reminder of six moments in ICU when serious mistakes can happen. These are usually due to human error.

## What are our top six moments?

### **Prescribing and adjusting heparin infusions**

Make sure you use the most recent blood tests for the correct patient.

### **Rapid sequence induction**

Use the checklist, organise your team and prepare your backup plan.

### **Inserting central lines and arterial lines.**

Avoid distractions, watch out for needle-sticks and use the safest technique.

### **Adjusting drug doses based on lab results**

Make sure you use the most recent blood tests for the correct patient.

### **Using off-formulary or unusual drugs**

Double-check with a colleague, ask the pharmacist and hand over clearly.

### **Admitting and discharging patients**

Use a structured handover and speak directly to colleagues outside ICU.

## Protect Your Patients:

During high risk moments, think *“what can I do to make this safer?”*