



Be aware of medicines most frequently involved in serious adverse drug events

Medicines most frequently involved in serious adverse drug events are medicines with an increased risk of harming patients severely when used inappropriately – either by you as healthcare professionals or by the patient. The risk may also be due to the medicines' pharmacological properties.

This list of *medicines most frequently involved in serious adverse drug events* can hopefully help you pay attention to the medicines that require special safety measures. Such special safety measures could, for instance, be to improve your access to information about these medicines, to ask a colleague to double-check your calculation of the dose and your dispensing of medicines, to pay attention to the infusion rate on the drop counter or to make an extra effort to ensure that the patient knows the right dose and knows when and how the medicine is to be taken.

| Active substances |
|--|
| Acetylcysteine, concentrate for solution for infusion |
| Amiodarone |
| Digoxin |
| Epinephrine (adrenaline) |
| Ferric salts, injection fluid |
| Fosphenytoin |
| Glucose |
| Glyceryl trinitrate |
| Levothyroxine |
| Lidocaine |
| Methadone |
| Metoprolol |
| Nifedipine |
| Norepinephrine (noradrenaline) |
| Phenobarbital |
| Phosphate, concentrate for solution for infusion |
| Phytomenadione (Vitamin K1) |
| Potassium, mixture and concentrate for solution for infusion |
| Prednisolone |
| Propofol |
| Sodium polystyrene sulfonate |
| Suxamethonium |
| Thiopental |

Note! In cases where only specific formulations of active substances pose a risk, they are mentioned next to the active substance in the list.

Find further information at

<http://laegemiddelstyrelsen.dk/highalertmedicines>

Medicine groups (active substances and subgroups)

| |
|--|
| Antibiotics (amoxicillin, ceftriaxone, cefuroxime, ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, nevirapine and penicillin) |
| Antidepressants (SSRIs) |
| Antipsychotics (haloperidol, quetiapine and zuclopenthixol) |
| Antithrombotics and anticoagulants (acetylsalicylic acid (mainly related to the dose for elderly people), clopidogrel, enoxaparin, phenprocoumon, tinzaparin and warfarin) |
| Benzodiazepines (midazolam and triazolam) |
| Cytostatics (carboplatin, daunorubicin, etoposide, 5-fluorouracil and methotrexate) |
| Diuretics (furosemide and thiazide diuretics) |
| Insulin |
| NSAIDs |
| Strong opioids (morphine and oxycodone) |

After each medicine group, we have added a parenthesis with specific active substances and subgroups that are associated with serious adverse drug events.

Background

The source material consists of published cases from the Danish National Agency for Patients' Rights and Complaints (up until 2010), serious adverse drug events in the Danish Patient Safety Database (up until 2010) as well as systematic survey articles, descriptive epidemiological studies and survey articles concerning the primary and secondary sectors (published up until 2008).

The criterion for including a specific medicine in the list is that it has caused at least one serious adverse drug event.

