

To | All Healthcare Providers
From | Elizabeth McGowan Rebo, PharmD
Medication Safety Manager
Date | September 9, 2011
Re | Weight Based Dosing

Weight Based Dosing

Situation: Reconciliation of TR-NMG-PC-MM-300-17 Weight Based Dosing policy and current practice is needed.

Background: Weight based dosing policy states that with orders for pediatric and neonatal patients, the prescriber must include the calculated dose and dosing determination (ex. mg/kg, BSA) to facilitate an independent double-check of the calculation by a pharmacist, nurse or both.

Assessment: Some orders are written by the prescriber as outlined above. Other times the dosing determination is not provided and pharmacy writes a clarifying order based upon normal dosing ranges for that medication. This is an error prone process as many medications contain a wide dosing range dependent on indication, and the calculated dose may fall within this range yet be inappropriate for the indication, or based on an incorrect weight, resulting in a dosing error.

Recommendation: In an effort to communicate clearly (FDNH safety behavior), comply with policy and ensure appropriate dosing for patients, prescribers are to write calculated dose and dosing determination on all orders. Order sets will be reviewed and revised as necessary. Pharmacy will call prescribers for clarification if both calculated dose and dosing determination are not included on the order.

Questions: Please contact Elizabeth Rebo, Medication Safety Manager, with any questions.