

CRITICAL Incident Learning

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

DANGEROUS ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND DOSE DESIGNATIONS

Has there been any change to the ISMP Canada's Do Not Use List of dangerous abbreviations, symbols and dose designations list since 2006, or is there a set plan to update this list?

ISMP Canada's Do Not Use Dangerous Abbreviations, Symbols and Dose Designations, published in 2006, is the most current version of this list, and has been referenced in the Accreditation Canada Required Organizational Practice related to dangerous abbreviations.

The ISMP Canada Do Not Use list is available from:

<http://www.ismp-canada.org/download/ISMPCanadaListOfDangerousAbbreviations.pdf>

Accreditation Canada's ROP Handbook is available from: <http://www.accreditation.ca/>

At this time there are no immediate plans to revise the list. For interest, ISMP (US) has a more extensive list (available from: <http://www.ismp.org/Tools/errorproneabbreviations.pdf>).

Organizations are free to create internal lists that include additional abbreviations, symbols and dose designations that have been problematic locally – we would appreciate hearing about these via our incident reporting program: https://www.ismp-canada.org/err_ipr.htm.

Reported incidents would be considered in any future revisions to the ISMP Canada Do Not Use List.