



QuickTip

ACCREDITATION | December 5 to 9, 2022

Q-Tip # 20

DANGEROUS ABBREVIATIONS

- Use of abbreviations when writing medication orders can result in misinterpreted orders & mistakes leading to serious or fatal outcomes
- The ISMP “**Do Not Use**” list identifies commonly misinterpreted abbreviations involved in harmful medication errors
- Examples include: U (unit), cc (mL), > < (greater than, less than), D/C (discontinue/discharge)
- Avoid using abbreviations on the “Do Not Use” list in written or electronic medication related documentation (i.e., clinical notes, prescriptions, electronic order sets, etc.)
- At WCH, compliance with the ISMP “Do Not Use” list is audited by Pharmacy Services & Professional Practice

Correct documentation saves lives!



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