The Center for Patient Safety is issuing this notification regarding:

**SAFETY ALERT: Medication Shortages**

**Medication shortages:**
- Adversely affect drug therapy
- Can cause complications in medical procedures
- Contribute to medication errors
- Create frustration for providers & patients

**ACTIONABLE ITEMS TO MITIGATE RISK**
- Validate details of shortage & check with suppliers
- Determine stock on hand
- Determine purchase history & true use
- Estimate time until shortage impacts agency & length of shortage
- Identify alternative drug and sources

**THE CULTURE CONNECTION**
- Communicate with staff details regarding shortage:
  - Specific drug & effective date/length of shortage
  - Alternative drugs/concentrations
  - Temporary guidelines & processes
- Utilize teamwork to identify susceptible patient population
- Review the 5 “R’s” of medication administration (Right medication, Right dosage, Right route, Right patient, Right time)
- Implement 2-person medication read-back or cross-check policy

**RESOURCES**
- FDA Drug Shortage List
- ASHP Guidelines On Managing Drug Product Shortages
- Taking a Strategic and Regional Approach to Critical Medication Shortages
- Sedgwick County Medication Cross Check Video

**CONTACT**

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MORE INFO
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