

12 Weeks to a Safer Medication System: **Week Five**



Take A Stand

Support Medication Safety

Error-prone abbreviations and symbols may cause confusion potentially resulting in medication errors.

This weeks activity:

- Review your agency's policy or guidance on the use of abbreviations:
 - ❖ Read the Error Prone Abbreviation document from ISMP found in the Safe Medication Administration Library.
 - ❖ Consider having staff spell out high-risk terms instead of using abbreviations or symbols that could be confused.
 - ❖ Make sure staff does not use their own abbreviations. Only approved and formally recognized abbreviations should be used when communicating any health care information.
- Review abbreviations and symbols that should not be used with your staff.

For more information on Error-prone abbreviations go to:

www.oregon.gov/dhs/licensing/Pages/safe-med-administration.aspx

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