

Patient Safety ALERT – Safer Administration of Insulin

In order to increase safer administration of insulin and reduce the risk of misinterpretation, the term **'units' must be used** in all contexts when prescribing insulin.

Abbreviations, such as 'U' or 'IU', must never be used.

Since 2004, national reporting indicates that one patient has died and another seriously harmed due to ten-fold dosing errors from abbreviating the term 'units'.

Required Actions - Please ensure ALL staff are aware of this when prescribing and administering patients' medication.