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Combining Olanzapine Rapid Acting Injection with Intramuscular Benzodiazepines

In the past month there have been two identical administration errors where olanzapine rapid acting IM injection was given at the same time as IM benzodiazepines. In both of these cases, the service users were fortunate enough not to have been harmed.

IM benzodiazepines cannot be given with, or within 1 hour of IM olanzapine

- Risks of combined administration include excessive sedation, cardiorespiratory depression and in very rare cases, death.
- **Lorazepam and Midazolam** are both benzodiazepines and neither can be administered via the IM route at the same time as IM Olanzapine.
- Due to national supply problems with IM lorazepam, IM midazolam is increasingly being prescribed as an alternative, as per the Trust RT policy.
- If IM benzodiazepine treatment is warranted, this should not be given until at least one hour after IM olanzapine administration.
- Following the administration of any medicine for RT, all service users should be monitored in line with Trust RT policy.

For further information:

[ELFT Rapid Tranquilisation Guidelines for Adults and Older People](#)
[ELFT Guidelines for the use of intramuscular Olanzapine](#)
[Olanzapine IM Summary of Product Characteristics](#)