

Look Alike & Sound Alike Drugs

To prevent medication errors involving drugs that may **look alike** or **sound alike**, consider the following practices:

Medication Ordering

- PRINT clearly
- DO NOT ABBREVIATE drug name
- Write both GENERIC and BRAND names
- Write INDICATION for use

Distinguishing Medications By:

- Purchase DIFFERENT BRAND
- Store in SEPARATE areas
- DISTINGUISH names
 - TALL MAN lettering
 - Circle/highlight/underline differences

Medication Administration/Storage:

- DOUBLE CHECK against order and MAR before administration
- HIGH ALERT meds require independent double checks
- Physical separation in storage (with warning on shelf, different color bins)

POTENTIALLY ERROR-PRONE DRUG PAIRS /GROUPS OF DRUGS	POTENTIAL ERRORS & CONSEQUENCES	ERROR PREVENTION MEASURES
Acetazolamide (DiaMOX®) Chlorothiazide (DiuRIL®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in generic and brand names may lead to errors • Medications have the same indication 	Physical separation in storage
AmiloRIDE (Midamor®) AmlodiPINE (Norvasc®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in generic names, dosage strengths, and dosing may lead to errors • Medications have some overlapping indications 	Physical separation in storage
Amphotericin B (Fungizone®) Amphotericin B – Liposomal (AmBisome®, Amphotec®)	Confusion may occur between conventional and liposomal formulations; products are NOT INTERCHANGEABLE	Liposomal formulation requires ID approval
BuPROPion Sustained Release (Wellbutrin SR®, Zyban®) BuPROPion Extended Release (Wellbutrin XL®) BupreNORphine (Subutex®) BupreNORphine/naloxone (Suboxone®) BusPIRone (Buspar®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in generic names may lead to errors • Both BuPROPions come in 150mg tablets but can be dosed either twice daily (SR) or once daily (XL). • These medications have different indications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbutrin XL is on formulary, Wellbutrin SR is non-formulary • Formulary status (bupreNORphine; bupreNORphine/naloxone are both formulary with restrictions)

POTENTIALLY ERROR-PRONE DRUG PAIRS /GROUPS OF DRUGS	POTENTIAL ERRORS & CONSEQUENCES	ERROR PREVENTION MEASURES
CARBO platin (Paraplatin®) CIS platin (Platinol®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names may lead to errors Doses appropriate for CARBOplatin usually exceed the maximum safe dose of CISplatin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double check process with chemotherapy audit tool for order review, compounding, and administration Tall Man lettering in pumps
CarBAM azepine (Tegretol®) OX carbazepine (Trileptal®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic and brand names may lead to errors Medications have some overlapping indications 	Physical separation in storage
CarVED ilol (Coreg®) CapTOP ril (Capoten®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names, indication and dosage strengths may lead to errors 	Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different color bins
CHLOR promazine (Thorazine®) ProchlorPER azine (Compazine®) ProMETH azine (Phenergan®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar generic names may lead to errors Medications have some overlapping indications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid Encourage written orders with both generic and brand names
ES cialopram (Lexapro®) CIT alopram (CELexa®)	Similarity in generic names and indications may lead to errors	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
CloNID ine (Catapres®) CloZAP ine (Clozaril®, Fazacllo ODT®) ClonazePAM (Klonopin®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names may lead to errors Medications have different indications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid Preprinted order form for initial clozapine orders Formulary status (CloZAPine ODT is restricted)
Divalpro ex (Depakote®, Depakote Sprinkle®) Divalproex Extended Release (Depakote ER®) Valproic Acid/Sodium Valproate (Depakene®)	Confusion may occur between the regular release and extended release formulations, which may result in under/over-dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid Pop-up in Siemens Rx system Bar code verification in all MAK units
DOP amine (Intropin®) DOBUT amine (Dobutrex®)	Similarity in names and strengths may lead to errors	Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different colored bins
DOCE taxel (TaxoTERE®) PACL itaxel (TaxOL®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic and brand names may lead to errors Interchanging these two drugs may result in serious dosing errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double check process with chemotherapy audit tool for order review, compounding, and administration Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different colored bins

POTENTIALLY ERROR-PRONE DRUG PAIRS /GROUPS OF DRUGS	POTENTIAL ERRORS & CONSEQUENCES	ERROR PREVENTION MEASURES
DOXOrubicin (conventional) (Adriamycin®) DOXOrubicin (liposomal) (Doxil®, Lipodox 50®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in generic and brand names may lead to errors • Interchanging these two drugs may result in serious dosing errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double check process with chemotherapy audit tool for order review, compounding, and administration • Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different colored bins
FluPHENazine (ProLIXIN®) FluPHENazine Decanoate (LONG acting ProLIXIN®) FluOXETine (ProZAC®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in generic and brand names may lead to errors • Medications have different indications 	Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different colored bins
GlipiZIDE (Glucoترول®) GlyBURide (Micronase®, Diabeta®, Glynase®)	Similarity in names, strengths, and indications may lead to errors GlipiZIDE = shorter acting; max dose 40 mg/day GlyBURide = longer acting; max dose 20 mg/day	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
Haloperidol Decanoate (LONG acting -- Haldol®) Haloperidol Lactate (SHORT acting -- Haldol®)	Confusion may occur between the long acting and immediate release injectable formulation which may result in under/over-dosing	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
Haemophilus B vaccine (Pedvax HIB®, ActHIB®, Hiberix®) Hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax HB®, Engerix-B®)	Similarities in names and reference to Haemophilus B vaccine as “HIB” and Hepatitis B Vaccine as “Hep B” may lead to errors	Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different colored bins
HydrALAZINE (Apresoline®) HydroOXYzine (Vistaril®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in generic names and strengths may lead to errors • Medications have different indications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-up in Siemens Rx system • Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different colored bins
IdaruCIZUMAB (Praxbind®) IDArubicin (Idamycin®) InFLIXimab (Remicade®) RiTUXimab (Rituxan®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity in generic names may lead to errors • Medications have different indications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulary status (IDArubicin is non-formulary) • InFLIXimab restricted to Rheumatology & GI use • Double check process with chemotherapy audit tool for order review, compounding, and administration • Physical separation in storage

POTENTIALLY ERROR-PRONE DRUG PAIRS /GROUPS OF DRUGS	POTENTIAL ERRORS & CONSEQUENCES	ERROR PREVENTION MEASURES
Insulin Glargine (Lantus®) long-acting basal Insulin Lispro (HumaLOG®) rapid-acting Insulin Aspart (NovoLOG®) rapid-acting Insulin Regular (HumuLIN R®, NovoLIN R®) Insulin 70/30 products (NovoLIN 70/30®, NovoLOG Mix 70/30®)	Similarity in names, strengths and concentration ratios may lead to errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid Formulary status (Insulin glargine and aspart are restricted, insulin lispro is non-formulary) On High Alert Medication List, requiring two independent double checks
KadCYLA® (ado-trastuzumab emtansine) KyPROLIS® (carfilzomib)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in brand names may lead to errors Interchanging these two drugs may result in serious dosing errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double check process with chemotherapy audit tool for order review, compounding, and administration
LamiVUDine (Epivir®) LamoTRigine (LaMICtal®) Terbinafine (LamISIL®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic and brand names and strengths may lead to errors Consequences of errors may include Stevens-Johnson syndrome (lamotrigine) Medications have different indications 	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
LevoFLOxacIn (Levaquin®) Levothyroxine (Synthroid®) LevETIRAcetam (Keppra®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names may lead to errors Medications have different indications 	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
MetFORMIN (Glucophage®) MetroNIDAZOLE (Flagyl®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in names and strengths may lead to errors. Medications have different indications 	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
NiCARDipine (Cardene®) NiMODipine (Nymalize®) NIFEdipine (Procardia®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names may lead to errors Medications have some overlapping indications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NiCARDipine is restricted to use by Anesthesia, Neurology, and Neurosurgery Physical separation in storage
NORepinephrine (Levophed®) PHENYLephrine (Neosynephrine®) EPINEPHrine (Adrenalin®) EPHEDrine (Akovaz®)	Similar generic names and indications may lead to errors	Encourage written and verbal communication with both generic and brand names
PredniSONE PrednisoLONE	Similar generic names and indications may lead to errors	Physical separation in storage
PHENobarbital (Luminal®) PENTobarbital (Nembutal®)	Similarity in generic names and indications may lead to errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PENTobarbital is restricted to use in the ICU/OR Physical separation in storage
RifAMPin (Rifadin®) RifAXImin (Xifaxin®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names may lead to errors Medications have different indications 	Physical separation in storage

POTENTIALLY ERROR-PRONE DRUG PAIRS /GROUPS OF DRUGS	POTENTIAL ERRORS & CONSEQUENCES	ERROR PREVENTION MEASURES
RisperiDONE (RisperDAL®) ROPINIRole (Requip®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic and brand names may lead to errors Medications have different indications 	Physical separation in storage, with warning on shelf, different colored bins
SulfaSALazine (Azulfidine®, Sulfazine®) SulfaDIAzine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in names may lead to errors Medications have different indications 	Encourage writing indications with medication orders
Tdap (Boostrix®, Adacel®) DTaP (Infanrix®)	<p>Similarity in names, strengths and concentration ratios may lead to errors. Tdap = adults; DTaP = children 6 weeks to <7 yr old</p>	Product information posters showing which one is for which age group
Trastuzumab (Herceptin®) Ado-trastuzumab emtansine (KadcYLA®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names may lead to errors Interchanging these two drugs may result in serious dosing errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double check process with chemotherapy audit tool for order review, compounding, and administration Physical separation in storage
Topiramate (TopaMAX®) Metoprolol Succinate Extended Release (TopROL XL®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in brand names may lead to errors. Consequences of errors may include rapid decrease in heart rate. Medications have different indications 	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
TraZODone (Desyrel®) TraMADol (Ultram®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic names may lead to errors Medications have different indications 	Look-Alike alert decal on Omnicell lid
ValGANcyclovir (Valcyte®) ValACYclovir (Valtrex®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarity in generic and brand names may lead to errors Medications have different indications 	Physical separation in storage
VinBLASTine (Velban®) VinCRISTine (Vincasar®, Oncovin®)	Similarity in names may lead to errors.	Double check process with chemotherapy audit tool for order review, compounding, and administration
Abbreviations for Extended Release formulations of oral medications: CD, DR, ER, SR, XL, XR, XT	Abbreviations do not all translate to interchangeable dosing frequencies. Some medications must be given once a day, others are given twice a day.	Need to double check dosing frequency whenever the drug is ordered.