

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER			
Policy Manual:	Pharmacy	Section:	Medication Use, Storage and Handling
Title:	Orders: Sound alike look alike Drugs (SALADs)	Policy Reference #:	PH-23-08
		Supersedes #:	PH-10-17-O
Date of Origination:	05/23/2006	Last Date Reviewed:	09/28/2021
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PURPOSE

To improve patient safety by using safeguards to reduce the potential for sound alike look alike medication errors

POLICY

Patient safety procedures will be in place to reduce the potential for a medication error related to prescribing, dispensing and administering medications with sound alike look alike names and/or packaging.

- *For the purposes of Lake Physician Group (LPG) Clinics, please refer to policy NM021 Sound Alike Look Alike Medications. LPG areas are governed by a separate council and therefore may have a separate sound a like look a like approved drug list for LPG areas.*
- LSU Health Baton Rouge Clinics may also use a more appropriate, clinic administered medication list of sound alike look alike medications similar to, if not the same as, the list used by LPG clinics. This list of medications is attached at the end of this policy.
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PROCEDURE

One or more of the following strategies will be utilized for sound alike look alike medications:

- **Tall-Man Lettering:** Tall-man lettering will be utilized to differentiate products that have sound alike look alike names in the computer, automated dispensing devices, and in storage areas..
- **Storage:** Similar sound alike look alike products will be separated within the pharmacy, patient care areas, automated dispensing machines and other settings when possible.
- **Order Entry Enhancements:** Pop-up windows may be used during order entry to alert pharmacists and nurses of a potential sound a like look a like medication.
- **Maintain awareness** of sound alike look alike drug names by providing information to all department staff.
- **Auxiliary labeling** may be used as an alternate means of awareness and notification.
- The potential for Sound a like Look a like Drugs, as a cause of medication errors, will be reviewed by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at the time a medication is considered for formulary status.

- The list of Sound a like Look a like Drugs will be reviewed annually by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

REFERENCES

MM 01.02.01 EP1. The Hospital develops a list of look-alike/sound-alike medications it stores, dispenses or administers.

MM 01.02.01 EP2. The Hospital takes action to prevent errors involving the interchange of the meds on its list of look-alike/sound-alike medications.

MM 01.02.01 EP3. The Hospital annually reviews and, as necessary, revises its list of look-alike/sound-alike medications.

MM 04.01.01 EP4. The hospital has a written policy that defines the precautions for ordering medications with look-alike or sound-alike names. *The Joint Commission Medication Management Standards*

FDA and ISMP Lists of Look-Alike Drug Names with Recommended Tall Man Letters

The look-alike drug names in the Tables that follow have been modified using tall man (mixed case) letters to help draw attention to the dissimilarities in their names. Several studies have shown that highlighting sections of drug names using tall man letters can help distinguish similar drug names,¹ making them less prone to mix-ups.²⁻³ ISMP, FDA, The Joint Commission, and other safety-conscious organizations have promoted the use of tall man letters as one means of reducing confusion between similar drug names.

Table 1 provides an alphabetized list of FDA-approved established drug names with recommended tall man letters, which were first identified during the FDA Name Differentiation Project (www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/MedicationErrors/ucm164587.htm).

Table 2 provides an alphabetized list of additional drug names with recommendations from ISMP regarding the use and placement of tall man letters. This is not an official list approved by FDA. It is intended for voluntary use by healthcare practitioners and drug information vendors. Any product label changes by manufacturers require FDA approval.

One of the difficulties with the use of tall man letters includes inconsistent application in health settings and lack of standardization regarding which letters to present in uppercase. A new study by Gerrett⁴ describes several ways to determine which of the dissimilar letters in each drug name should be highlighted. To promote standardi-

zation, ISMP followed one of these tested methodologies whenever possible. Called the CD3 rule, the methodology suggests working from the left of the word first by capitalizing all the characters to the right once two or more dissimilar letters are encountered, and then, working from the right of the word back, returning two or more letters common to both words to lowercase letters. When the rule cannot be applied because there are no common letters on the right side of the word, the methodology suggests capitalizing the central part of the word only. ISMP suggests that the tall man lettering scheme provided in Tables 1 and 2 be followed when presenting these drug names to healthcare providers to promote consistency. At this time, scientific studies do not support the use of tall man letters when presenting drug names to patients.

References: 1) Filik R, Purdy K, Gale A, Gerrett D. Drug name confusion: evaluating the effectiveness of capital ("Tall Man") letters using eye movement data. *Social Science & Medicine* 2004;59(12):2597-2601. 2) Filik R, Purdy K, Gale A, Gerrett D. Labeling of medicines and patient safety: evaluating methods of reducing drug name confusion. *Human Factors* 2006;48(1):39-47. 3) Grasha A. Cognitive systems perspective on human performance in the pharmacy: implications for accuracy, effectiveness, and job satisfaction. Alexandria (VA): NACDS; 2000 Report No. 062100. 4) Gerrett D, Gale AG, Darker IT, Filik R, Purdy KJ. Tall man lettering. Final report of the use of tall man lettering to minimize selection errors of medicine names in computer prescribing and dispensing systems. Loughborough University Enterprises Ltd.; 2009 (www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/eprescribing/refdocs/tallman.pdf).

Table 1. FDA-Approved List of Generic Drug Names with Tall Man Letters

Drug Name with Tall Man Letters	Confused with
acetaZOLAMIDE	acetoHEXAMIDE
acetoHEXAMIDE	acetaZOLAMIDE
buPROPion	busPIRone
busPIRone	buPROPion
chlorproMAZINE	chlorproPAMIDE
chlorproPAMIDE	chlorproMAZINE
clomiPHENE	clomiPRAMINE
clomiPRAMINE	clomiPHENE
cycloSERINE	cycloSPORINE
cycloSPORINE	cycloSERINE
DAUNOrubicin	DOXOrubicin
dimenhyDRINATE	diphenhydrAMINE
diphenhydrAMINE	dimenhyDRINATE
DOBUTamine	DOPamine
DOPamine	DOBUTamine

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ISMP Institute for Safe Medication Practices
**FDA and ISMP Lists of
 Look-Alike Drug Names with Recommended Tall Man Letters (continued)**

Table 1. FDA-Approved List of Generic Drug Names with Tall Man Letters (continued)

Drug Name with Tall Man Letters	Confused with
DOXOrubicin	DAUNOrubicin
gli pi ZIDE	gly BUR IDE
gly BUR IDE	gli pi ZIDE
hydr ALAZ INE	hydr OXY zine
hydr OXY zine	hydr ALAZ INE
medroxy PROGESTER one	methyl PREDNISolone - methyl TESTOSTER one
methyl PREDNISolone	medroxy PROGESTER one - methyl TESTOSTER one
methyl TESTOSTER one	medroxy PROGESTER one - methyl PREDNISolone
ni CARD ipine	NIF Edipine
NIF Edipine	ni CARD ipine
predni SONE	predni SONE
predni SONE	predni SONE
sulf ADIAZ INE	sulf ISOXAZOLE
sulf ISOXAZOLE	sulf ADIAZ INE
TOLAZ amide	TOLBUT amide
TOLBUT amide	TOLAZ amide
vin BLAS tine	vin CRIS tine
vin CRIS tine	vin BLAS tine

The list below is the sound alike look alike list approved for use in the Lake Physician Group Clinics as well as the LSU Health Baton Rouge Clinics.

Hum ULIN and Hum ALOG insulin
Novol IN and Novol OG insulin
Novol IN 70/30 and Novol OG mix
AMAR yl and REMIN yl
Avandia and Coumadin
CeLEB REX, CeLE XA and CeREBY X
clonazep PAM (Klono PIN) and Clon ID ine (Catapres)
LAnt US and LEntE Insulin
Lami SIL and Lami CTAL
Zy PRE XA and Zy RTEC
Adv ICOR and Adv AIR
DI Abeta and ZE beta
DiFLUCAN and DiPRIVAN
PriLOSEC , ProZAC and PreVACID
Wellbutrin SR and Wellbutrin XL
Zantac, Zyrtec and Xyzal
NEURONTIN and ZEURONTIN
Ava LIDE and Ava PRO
Rem ERON and Rem INYL

FLOmax and FOSAmx
SIMcor and SYMBIcor
Heparin 10 units /ml and Heparin 100 units /ml
MMR and MMRV (Proquad)
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Pevnar 13) and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (Pneumovax 23)
Tdap and DTap or Td, Tb, DT
PEDIArix and KINrix
IPV and HPV
Hib and Hep B