

<b>Northwell Health</b>		<b>PATIENT CARE MANUAL</b>	
<b>POLICY TITLE: LOOK-ALIKE/SOUND-ALIKE MEDICATION POLICY</b>			
<b>Prepared by:</b> Department of Pharmacy Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> 2/13	<b>Last Reviewed / Revised:</b> 11/04, 11/05, 10/07, 8/10, 11/15	<b>Total Pages:</b> 3

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- **“Look-Alike / Sound-Alike” (LASA)** medications refer to names of different drugs that have orthographic similarities and/or similar phonetics (i.e. similar when written or spoken). These similarities increase the risk of an error occurring in the medication administration process to include such areas as: ordering, transcription, dispensing, and/or the administration phase.
- Tall Man Lettering: term that describes a method for differentiating the unique letter characters of similar drug names known to have been confused with one another.
- The Joint Commission (TJC) Medication Management (MM) standards require institutions to address the safe use of LASA medications by developing a list of such medications and taking proactive steps to prevent errors involving the interchange of these agents.

**POLICY**

Identify and review a list of LASA drugs specific to Northwell Health. This list will be used to ensure that safeguards are put in place to prevent medication errors and protect the patient.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to faculty and students of the Hofstra Northwell Health School of Medicine (“School of Medicine”) conducting work or research on behalf of the School of Medicine or at any Northwell Health facility; and all members of the Northwell Health workforce including, but not limited to, employees, medical staff, volunteers, students, physician office staff, and other persons performing work for or conducting research at or on behalf of the Northwell Health.

**PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES**

- Northwell Health will develop standard lists of Look-alike/Sound-alike medications. These medication pairs, comprised of Appendixes A and B attached, are identified using Tall man lettering and shall include recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), and those developed internally by the Northwell Health.
  - Requests to add or remove agents from this list will be directed to the System P&T Committee.
  - The ultimate decision to modify this policy shall lie with the System P&T Committee membership.
  - The tall man lettering for these medication pairs should appear on pharmacy computer drug selection screens, computer-generated pharmacy labels, shelf labels, automated dispensing cabinet screens, computer-generated medication administration records (MARs), preprinted order forms, and smart pump drug libraries whenever possible.
- The System P&T Committee has agreed to assign certain LASA pairs (Appendix A) with more comprehensive medication safety strategies as listed below:
  - Due to differing medication management processes at each Health System site and the implementation of various technology solutions, the exact procedure for managing LASA designated medications shall be determined by local P&T Committees. Recommended strategies may include, but are not limited to:
    - Electronic Health Record –to include “Look- Alike/Sound-Alike” warnings.
    - Pharmacy Storage – do not store LASA medications alphabetically by name but rather store them out of order, or in a different location; place label stating “Look-Alike / Sound-Alike” on medication bins of LASA agents.
    - Automated Dispensing Cabinets – a “Look-Alike / Sound-Alike” alert should appear when loading and removing LASA medications from the cabinet.

- Formulary Management – consider LASA names and similar labeling of generic products when determining the Formulary determination of products.

**REFERENCES**

ISMP: <https://www.ismp.org/tools/confuseddrugnames.pdf>

ISMP: <https://www.ismp.org/tools/tallmanletters.pdf>

TJC: CAMH - MM.01.02.01, EP1

<b>Reviewed / Approved by:</b>	
<b>Reviewed / Approved by:</b>	
<b>SIGNATURES:</b>	
<b>X</b>	
	Date:

**Appendix A: Look-Alike Drug Names requiring additional safety measures**

<b>CeleXA</b> <sup>®</sup> (Citalopram) <b>CeleBREX</b> <sup>®</sup> (Celecoxib) <b>CereBYX</b> <sup>®</sup> (Fosphenytoin)
<b>cloNIDine</b> (Catapres <sup>®</sup> ) <b>Klonopin</b> <sup>®</sup> (clonazepam)
<b>hydrALAZINE</b> (Apresoline <sup>®</sup> ) <b>hydrOXYzine</b> (Atarax <sup>®</sup> , Vistaril <sup>®</sup> )
<b>CISplatin</b> (Platinol <sup>®</sup> ) <b>CARBOplatin</b> (Paraplatin <sup>®</sup> )
<b>PACLitaxel</b> (Taxol <sup>®</sup> ) <b>DOCEtaxel</b> (Taxotere <sup>®</sup> )
<b>VinBLASTine</b> (Velban <sup>®</sup> ) <b>VinCRISTine</b> (Oncovin <sup>®</sup> )
<b>Concentrated liquid morphine products</b> (Roxanol <sup>®</sup> ) <b>Conventional liquid morphine</b>
<b>HYDROmorphone</b> INJ (Dilaudid <sup>®</sup> ) <b>Morphine</b> INJ (Astramorph <sup>®</sup> , Duramorph <sup>®</sup> , Infumorph <sup>®</sup> )
<b>HumuLIN</b> <sup>®</sup> <b>R U-100</b> (Regular insulin human) <b>HumuLIN</b> <sup>®</sup> <b>R U-500</b> (Regular insulin human) <b>HumuLIN</b> <sup>®</sup> <b>N NPH</b> (human insulin isophane) <b>HumuLIN</b> <sup>®</sup> <b>70/30</b> (70% human insulin isophane, 30% human insulin) <b>HumaLOG</b> <sup>®</sup> (Insulin lispro) <b>HumaLOG</b> <sup>®</sup> <b>Mix 75/25</b> (75% insulin lispro protamine, 25% insulin lispro) <b>HumaLOG</b> <sup>®</sup> <b>Mix 50/50</b> (50% insulin lispro protamine, 50% insulin lispro)
<b>OxyCODONE</b> (Roxicodone <sup>®</sup> ) <b>OxyCONTIN</b> <sup>®</sup> (OxyCODONE ER)

**Appendix B: Medications with Recommended Tall Man Letters**

<b>ALBUTerol - ATENolol</b>	lami <b>VUD</b> ine - lamo <b>TRI</b> gine
<b>ALPRAZolam - LORazepam</b>	lev <b>OCAR</b> Nitine - lev <b>ETIRA</b> cetam
ami <b>KACIN</b> - Ami <b>CAR</b>	levo <b>FLOX</b> acin – lev <b>OCAR</b> Nitine-- <b>LEVO</b> leucovorin
am <b>LODIP</b> ine – a <b>MIL</b> oride- Ato <b>MOX</b> etine	medroxy <b>PROGESTER</b> one - methyl <b>PREDNIS</b> olone - methyl <b>TESTOSTER</b> one
<b>ARIP</b> iprazole - <b>RABE</b> prazole	metron <b>IDAZOLE</b> - met <b>FORMIN</b>
aza <b>CITID</b> ine - aza <b>THIO</b> prine	Mito <b>MY</b> cin - Mito <b>XAN</b> trone
<b>BACTRO</b> ban - <b>BACI</b> tracin	Nex <b>IUM</b> - Nex <b>AVAR</b>
bu <b>DESO</b> nide - bu <b>META</b> nide	ni <b>CAR</b> dipine - <b>NIFE</b> dipine
<b>BU</b> pivacaine - <b>ME</b> pivacaine	ni <b>MOD</b> ipine - <b>NIFE</b> dipine - ni <b>CAR</b> dipine
bu <b>PROP</b> ion - bus <b>PIR</b> one	Novo <b>LOG</b> - Novo <b>LIN</b>
<b>BU</b> pivacaine - <b>ME</b> pivacaine	<b>OX</b> carbapizine - car <b>BAM</b> azepine
ce <b>FAZ</b> olin – cef <b>TRIA</b> Xone – cef <b>TAZ</b> idime -	<b>PAR</b> oxetine - <b>FLU</b> oxetine
cefo <b>TE</b> tan - cef <b>OX</b> itin	<b>PENT</b> obarbital - <b>PHEN</b> obarbital
chlorpro <b>MAZINE</b> - chlordiaze <b>POXIDE</b>	<b>PRAL</b> atrexate - <b>PEME</b> trexed
chlorpro <b>MAZINE</b> - chlorpro <b>PAMIDE</b>	predni <b>SONE</b> - predniso <b>LONE</b>
Clobazam - clonaze <b>PAM</b>	Pri <b>LOSEC</b> - <b>PRO</b> zac
clomi <b>PHENE</b> - clomi <b>PRAMINE</b>	<b>QU</b> Etiapine - <b>OLAN</b> Zapine
clonaze <b>PAM</b> – clo <b>NID</b> ine - clo <b>ZAP</b> ine	quinine - qui <b>NID</b> ine
cyclo <b>SPORINE</b> - cyclo <b>SERINE</b>	risperi <b>DONE</b> - r <b>OPINIR</b> ole - Risper <b>DAL</b>
<b>DACTIN</b> omycin - <b>DAPTO</b> mycin	ri <b>TUX</b> imab - in <b>FLIX</b> imab
<b>DAPT</b> Acel - <b>ADA</b> cel	romi <b>PLO</b> stim - romi <b>DEP</b> sin
<b>DAUNO</b> rubicin - <b>DOXO</b> rubicin	Sand <b>IMMUNE</b> - Sando <b>STATIN</b>
Depa <b>KENE</b> - Depa <b>KOTE</b> - Depa <b>CON</b>	<b>SERO</b> quel - <b>SINE</b> quan
<b>DEPO</b> -Medrol - Solu- <b>MEDROL</b>	Solu- <b>MEDROL</b> - Solu- <b>CORTEF</b>
dimenhy <b>DRINATE</b> - diphenhydr <b>AMINE</b>	<b>SORA</b> fenib - <b>SUNI</b> tinib
di <b>VAL</b> proex DR - di <b>DAN</b> osine DR	sulf <b>ADIAZINE</b> - sulfa <b>SALA</b> zine
<b>DOBUT</b> amine - <b>DOP</b> amine	sulf <b>ADIAZINE</b> - sulfi <b>SOXAZOLE</b>
<b>DTap</b> - Tdap	<b>SUMA</b> triptan - sita <b>GLIP</b> tin - <b>ZOLM</b> itriptan
e <b>PHED</b> rine - <b>EPINEPH</b> rine	ti <b>ZAN</b> idine - tia <b>GAB</b> ine
es <b>OME</b> PRAZOLE - es <b>MOLOL</b>	<b>TOLAZ</b> amide - <b>TOLBUT</b> amide - vin <b>BLAS</b> tine
fenta <b>NYL</b> - <b>SUF</b> entanil	tra <b>ZOD</b> one - tra <b>MAD</b> ol
flucon <b>AZOLE</b> - fludro <b>CORTISONE</b>	<b>TRENT</b> al - <b>TEG</b> retol
<b>FLU</b> oxetine - <b>DUL</b> oxetine	Tri <b>COR</b> - Tri <b>LIPIX</b>
fluvoxa <b>MINE</b> – flu <b>PHENA</b> Zine - flavox <b>ATE</b>	val <b>ACY</b> clovir - val <b>GANC</b> iclovir
glipi <b>ZIDE</b> - gly <b>BURIDE</b>	vin <b>BLAS</b> tine - vin <b>CRIS</b> tine
guan <b>FACINE</b> - guai <b>FEN</b> esin	Vila <b>ZOD</b> one - Vin <b>OREL</b> bine
<b>HYDRO</b> codone - oxy <b>CODONE</b>	Zy <b>PREXA</b> - Zyr <b>TEC</b>
<b>IDArubicin</b> - <b>DOXO</b> rubicin	
influenza virus vaccine - influenza virus vaccine <b>HIGH DOSE</b>	
La <b>MIC</b> tal - Lam <b>ISIL</b>	