

North Shore University Hospital

POLICY TITLE: Look-alike/sound-alike medications	Medication Management Policy
Approval Date: 6/13/16	Effective Date:
Implementation Date:	Last Revised: 4/16, 11/15, 6/13
Prepared by: System P&T / Michele Graci, PharmD	

PURPOSE

The Joint Commission (TJC) Medication Management (MM) standards require institutions 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.

DEFINITION

- “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.

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 all members of the North Shore University Hospital workforce including, but not limited to employees, medical staff, volunteers, students, physician office staff, and other persons performing work for or at North Shore University Hospital.

PROCEDURE

- Northwell Health developed 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 Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee.
- The ultimate decision to modify this policy shall lie with the System Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee membership.
- The tall man lettering for these medication pairs appears 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 Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committees. Recommended strategies may include, but are not limited to:
 - Electronic Health Record – includes “Look-Alike/Sound-Alike” warnings (Tall Man lettering).
 - 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 appears 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

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

<p>CeleXA[®] (Citalopram) CeleBREX[®] (Celecoxib) CereBYX[®] (Fosphenytoin)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate products stored in Pharmacy • Affix auxiliary label on storage bin to heighten staff awareness awareness • Utilize TALLman characters to alert prescriber and nursing staff when they access Pyxis machine
<p>cloNIDine (Catapres[®]) Klonopin[®] (clonazepam)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate products stored in Pharmacy • Affix auxiliary label on storage bin to heighten staff awareness • Utilize TALLman characters to alert prescriber and nursing staff when they access Pyxis machine
<p>hydrALAZINE (Apresoline[®]) hydrOXYzine (Atarax[®], Vistaril[®])</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate products stored in Pharmacy • Affix auxiliary label on storage bin to heighten staff awareness • Utilize TALLman characters to alert prescriber and nursing staff when they access Pyxis machine
<p>CISplatin (Platinol[®]) CARBOplatin (Paraplatin[®])</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No verbal order accepted • Install max dose warning for each drug in the computer. • Store the two drugs apart • Shelf labeled with pink label stating “Look-alike/Sound-alike” • Double check process in place in Pharmacy prior to dispensing • Nursing check product against order before leaving the pharmacy and prior to administration
<p>PACLitaxel (Taxol[®]) DOCEtaxel (Taxotere[®])</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No verbal order accepted • Install maximum dose warning for each drug in the computer • Shelf labeled with pink label stating “Look-alike/Sound-alike” • Double check process in place in Pharmacy prior to dispensing • Nursing check product against order before leaving the pharmacy and prior to administration
<p>VinBLAStine (Velban[®]) VinCRIStine (Oncovin[®])</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No verbal order accepted • Install maximum dose warning in the computer. • Store the two drugs apart • Double check process in place in Pharmacy prior to dispensing • Nursing check product against order before leaving the pharmacy and prior to administration • Make sure “NOT FOR INTRATHECAL USE” auxiliary label is affixed to all vincristine preparations
<p>Concentrated liquid morphine products (Roxanol[®]) Conventional liquid morphine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message in pyxis machine to alert nursing staff of sound/alike - look alike between the two products prior to administration. • Affix auxiliary label "concentrated" to all concentrated morphine solution 20mg/ml prior to dispensing • For the conventional product – only carry the 10mg/5ml on formulary
<p>HYDROmorphone INJ (Dilaudid[®]) Morphine INJ (Astramorph[®], Duramorph[®], Infumorph[®])</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize TALLman characters to alert prescriber and nursing staff when they access Pyxis machine • Message in pyxis machine to alert nursing staff of potential confusion between the two products • Standardize distribution of morphine inj to only 2mg and 10mg in all Patient care area. • Reserve morphine 5mg/10ml preservative free (Duramorph[®]) for Operating room

<p>HumuLIN® R U-100 (Regular insulin human)</p> <p>HumuLIN® R U-500 (Regular insulin human)</p> <p>HumuLIN® N NPH (human insulin isophane)</p> <p>HumuLIN® 70/30 (70% human insulin isophane, 30% human insulin)</p> <p>HumaLOG® (Insulin lispro) HumaLOG® Mix 75/25 (75% insulin lispro protamine, 25% insulin lispro)</p> <p>HumaLOG® Mix 50/50 (50% insulin lispro protamine, 50% insulin lispro)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate products stored in Pharmacy • Affix auxiliary label on storage bin to heighten staff awareness awareness • Utilize TALLman characters to alert prescriber and nursing staff when they access Pyxis machine
<p>OxyCODONE (Roxicodone®)</p> <p>OxyCONTIN® (OxyCODONE ER)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate products stored in Pharmacy • Affix auxiliary label on storage bin to heighten staff awareness awareness • Utilize TALLman characters to alert prescriber and nursing staff when they access Pyxis machine

Appendix B: Medications with Recommended Tall Man Letters

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