

**NORTHWELL HEALTH
LONG ISLAND JEWISH MEDICAL CENTER**

POLICY TITLE: LOOK-ALIKE/SOUND-ALIKE MEDICATION POLICY	PHARMACY & THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE PATIENT CARE SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL
System Approval Date: 04/06/2016	Effective Date: 11/04 Reviewed/Revised: 11/05, 10/07, 8/10, 2/13, 11/15, 4/16
Site Implementation Date: 05/24/16	
Inclusions: Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Long Island Jewish Forest Hills, Long Island Jewish Valley Stream, Cohen Children’s Medical Center, Zucker Hillside Hospital	
Prepared by: NWH Clinical Pharmacy Standardization Subcommittee, NWH Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee	Exceptions/Alternate Policy(s)/#: Includes “Tall Man Lettering”

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 Appendices A and B (attached)] are identified using tall man lettering (when applicable) 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

Reviewed / Approved by LIJMC Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee:	5/11/16
Reviewed / Approved by LIJMC Medical Board:	5/24/16
Signatures on file	
X	
Associate Executive Director, Patient Care Services	Date:
X	
Chair, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee	Date:
X	
Senior Director, Pharmacy Services	Date:

Appendix A: Look-Alike Drug Names Requiring Additional Safety Measures

LASA Groupings	LIJMC Specific Measures
CeleXA[®] (Citalopram) CeleBRESX[®] (Celecoxib) CereBYX[®] (Fosphenytoin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible
clonIDine (Catapres [®]) Klonopin[®] (clonazepam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible
hydrALAZINE (Apresoline [®]) hydrOXYzine (Atarax [®] , Vistaril [®])	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible
CISplatin (Platinol [®]) CARBOplatin (Paraplatin [®])	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible • Preparation and dispensation of all chemotherapeutic agents is limited to the Pharmacy Department • Only specially trained pharmacists are allowed to prepare, check and dispense chemotherapeutic agents • Two pharmacist double check occurs prior to dispensing from pharmacy
PACLitaxel (Taxol [®]) DOCEtaxel (Taxotere [®])	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible • Preparation and dispensation of all chemotherapeutic agents is limited to the Pharmacy Department • Only specially trained pharmacists are allowed to prepare, check and dispense chemotherapeutic agents • Two pharmacist double check occurs prior to dispensing from pharmacy
VinBLASTine (Velban [®]) VinCRISTine (Oncovin [®])	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible • Preparation and dispensation of all chemotherapeutic agents is limited to the Pharmacy Department • Only specially trained pharmacists are allowed to prepare, check and dispense chemotherapeutic agents • Two pharmacist double check occurs prior to dispensing from pharmacy

Appendix A: Look-Alike Drug Names Requiring Additional Safety Measures

LASA Groupings	LIJMC Specific Measures
<p>Concentrated liquid morphine products (Roxanol[®])</p> <p>Conventional liquid morphine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible
<p>HYDRMorphone INJ (Dilaudid[®])</p> <p>Morphine INJ (Astramorph[®], Duramorph[®], Infumorph[®])</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible • Medications, pump settings and dosages are double checked every shift for PCA administration • Reversal agents and resuscitation equipment are available on all patient care units
<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)</p> <p>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"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible • Patient-specific insulin is dispensed from pharmacy whenever possible • Double check occurs prior to dispensing from pharmacy • Reversal agents and resuscitation equipment are available on all patient care units
<p>OxyCODONE (Roxicodone[®])</p> <p>OxyCONTIN[®] (OxyCODONE ER)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated in stock • Identified as LASA medications (e.g., IT alerts, auxiliary labels) • Barcoded medication administration (BCMA) technology should be used whenever possible

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
BU pivacaine - ME pivacaine	ni MOD ipine - NIFE dipine - ni CARD ipine
bu PROP ion - bus PIR one	Novo LOG - Novo LIN
BU pivacaine - ME pivacaine	OX carbazepine - car BAM azepine
ce FAZ olin - cef TRIA Xone - cef TAZ idime	PAR oxetine - FLU oxetine
cefo TE tan - cef OX itin	PENT obarbital - PHEN obarbital
chlorpro MAZINE - chlordiaze POXIDE	PRAL atrexate - PEME trexed
chlorpro MAZINE - chlorpro PAMIDE	predni SONE - predniso LONE
Clobazam - clonaze PAM	Pri LOSEC - PRO zac
clomi PHENE - clomi PRAMINE	QUE tiapine - OLAN Zapine
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 SALAZ ine
DOBUT amine - DOP amine	sulf ADIAZINE - sulfi SOXAZOLE
DTap - Tdap	SUMA triptan - sita GLIPT in - ZOLM itriptan
e PHED rine - EPINEPH rine	ti ZAN idine - tia GAB ine
es OME PRAZOLE - es MOLOL	TOLAZ amide - TOLBUT amide - vin BLAS tine
fenta NYL - SUF entanil	tra ZOD one - tra MAD ol
flucon AZOLE - fludro CORTISONE	TRENT al - TEG retol
FLU oxetine - DUL oxetine	Tri COR - Tri LIPIX
fluvoxa MINE - flu PHENAZ ine - flavox ATE	val ACY clovir - val GANC iclovir
glipi ZIDE - glyburide	vin BLAS tine - vin CRIS tine
guan FACINE - guai FEN esin	Vila ZOD one - Vin OREL bine
HYDRO codone - oxy CODONE	Zy PREXA - Zyr TEC
IDA rubicin - DOXO rubicin	
influenza virus vaccine - influenza virus vaccine HIGH DOSE	
LaMIC tal - Lam ISIL	