

LOOK-ALIKE / SOUND-ALIKE DRUGS



Many medications can look and / or sound like other medications. This may lead to potentially harmful medication errors. When transcribing and/or giving any of the medications listed below, please use caution. Specific Safety Strategies that we have implemented to help prevent errors with these medications are also listed below.

Potential Problematic Drug Names	Specific Safety Strategies
HYDROmorphine PO and morphine PO	Automated Dispensing Cabinet alert
oxyCODONE, OxyCONTIN, HYDROcodone, oxyMORphone, HYDROmorphine	Limited to profile dispense only in dispensing cabinet
Insulin Products	Independent double check by nursing upon administration
buPROPion and busPIRone	See safety strategies listed below
hydrOXYzine, hydrALAZINE, hydroCHLORothiazide, hydroxyurea, hydroxychloroquine	
CeleBREX, CeleXA, Cerebyx	
clonIDine, clonazePAM, cloZAPine	
lamiVUDine and lamoTRIgine	
clonzePAM, LORazepam, ALPRAZolam	
traZODone and traMADol	
DULoxetine, FLUoxetine, PARoxetine	
Propanolol, Propafenone	
guaifENesin, guanFACINE	
valACYclovir, valGANciclovir	
Procaine Penicillin G, Benzathine Penicillin G, Penicillin V	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Store separately 2. Verify intended route of administration 3. Automated Dispensing Cabinet alert

Safety strategies used for all sound-alike or look-alike medications.

1. Brand and/or generic names are listed on the MAR and automated dispensing cabinet computer screens
2. Do not store look-alike or sound-alike medications next to each other
3. Affix "Look-Alike/Sound-Alike" stickers to areas where look-alike or sound-alike medications are stored
4. Use tall-man lettering on shelf labels
5. Barcode scanning upon administration to ensure correct product, where barcode scanning is available
6. Alerts prior to dispensing from an Automated Dispensing Cabinet

Approved by P&T Committee – 02/2025