

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
CISplatin and CARBOplatin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal orders for chemotherapy are unacceptable. 2. Pharmacist independent double-check all of chemo orders
HYDROmorphine and morphine	Automated Dispensing Cabinet alert
oxyCODONE, OxyCONTIN, HYDROcodone, oxyMORphone, HYDROmorphine	Limited to profile dispense only in dispensing cabinet
Insulin Products (Long-acting and IV)	Independent double check by nursing upon administration
vinBLASTine, vinCRISTine, and vinorelbine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be dispensed and administered in 50 mL minibags; never dispensed or administered in syringes (to prevent inadvertent intrathecal injection) 2. Verbal orders for chemotherapy are unacceptable 3. Pharmacist independent double-check of all chemo orders
ePHEDrine and EPINEPHrine	See safety strategies listed below
buPROPion and busPIRone	
hydrOXYzine, hydrALAZINE, hydroCHLOROthiazide, hydroxyurea, hydroxychloroquine	
clonIDine, clonazePAM, cloZAPine	
lamiVUDine and lamoTRigine	
clonzePAM, LORazepam, ALPRAZolam	
traZODone and traMADol	
ceFAZolin, ceFTRIAXone, ceFTAZidime, ceFOXitin	
DULOxetine, FLUoxetine, PARoxetine	
Narcan, Nubain	
Propanolol, Propafenone	
guaiFENesin, guanFACINE	
NIFEdipine, niCARDipine	
valACYclovir, valGANciclovir	
Penicillin G, 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
metronIDAZOLE and potassium chloride (KCL) IVPB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order product from different manufacturers 2. Store separately 3. "Warning: Concentrated KCL" sticker on KCL pre-mixed piggybacks
Magnesium Sulfate 2 mL vials and heparin 5000 unit vials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Order product from different manufacturers 2. Store separately

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