

**FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL  
PATIENT CARE SERVICES**



<b>TITLE: Look Alike, Sound Alike Drugs</b>	<b>Policy No.: PCS-06-011</b>
<b>Purpose:</b> To protect the safety of our patients by storing drugs with look alike, sound alike names in a manner to minimize the risk of medication dispensing and administration errors.	<b>Developed Date:</b> 12/03 <b>Review Date:</b> 5/09, 7/14, 2/18 <b>Revised Date:</b> 7/04, 11/04, 9/07, 3/08, 9/10, 5/12, 2/15, 4/15
<b>Policy:</b> Any drug(s) identified through the literature, medication errors, or judgment to have a name that looks or sounds like another drug will be stored differently in the pharmacy department or any other medication storage area to minimize the risk of a medication error.	<b>Review Responsibility:</b> Executive VP Chief of Patient Services/CNO, Director of Pharmacy; Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee; Nursing Leadership; Executive Committee of the Medical Staff
<b>Expected Outcomes:</b> Increase in patient safety; reduction in medication errors.	
<b>Reference Standards:</b> MM 01.02.01	

**Procedure**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>KEY POINTS</b>
1. Look Alike; Sound Alike medications are defined as those medications when written or verbally pronounced have the potential to lead to a medication error by mimicking the appearance or sound of another medication.	
2. Drug information and safety literature such as the ISMP Safety Alerts will be used to assist in identifying medications which may look-alike or sound-alike.	2. The information posted in these is most often the result of a medication error that has already occurred.
3. Floyd Medical Center's Medication Occurrence reporting system will also be utilized to identify look-alike and/or sound-alike medications.	3. This information will most often be reported secondary to a medication error or "near miss" Identified by a Floyd employee.
4. As drugs are added to the hospital formulary, they will be evaluated for error potential by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee.	4. This will be a proactive look at whether a drug seems to have a potential for error due to a look-alike or sound-alike name.

ACTIONS	KEY POINTS
<p>5. If at anytime a Floyd Medical Center employee feels in their judgment that a medication error could happen because of a look-alike or sound-alike name, they should contact the Director of Pharmacy and express their concern or complete an Medication Occurrence Report as a “near miss”</p> <p>6. Every effort will be made in any drug storage area where a look-alike; sound-alike drug name is stored to separate these drugs from each other. If separating the drugs is not a practical solution, then an orange label stating “look-alike; sound-alike” will be placed on the shelf in front of the product to make the person aware that there is a potential for error when dispensing these medications</p> <p>7. Because of the guiding light technology and the sensing lid technology of Omnicell, there is not an issue with look-alike sound alike names on the nursing units.</p> <p>8. Different medications with names that are identical, but have differences will have the labeling modified in the Pharmacy computer to draw attention to the differences on the label, MAR, Omnicell, and pharmacy profile.</p> <p>9. Tall Man lettering will also be utilized to help distinguish medications that may look-alike or sound-alike.</p> <p>10. Alert notes will also be added to the products in the pharmacy computer system to alert the pharmacist of potential look-alike; sound-alike problems.</p> <p>11. <b>Verbal/Telephone</b> Medication orders for Look-Alike; Sound-Alike medications must be read back and verified AND contain an indication for the medication.</p> <p>12. A list of look-alike; sound-alike medications will be developed specifically for the organization. The list will be reviewed annually for necessary additions or deletions and for any action necessary to prevent errors from occurring.</p>	<p>5. The Pharmacy Director can be reached by phone at 706.509.5919 or by e-mail.</p> <p>The Pharmacy Director reviews all medication occurrence reports and will take action when a look-alike; sound-alike drug name is reported.</p> <p>6. All new employees will be oriented to this procedure through the department patient safety goal competency check list.</p> <p>Yellow Bins will also be used in some situations to distinguish look-alike; sound-alike medications.</p> <p>8. Examples: Remeron 15mg tab verses Remeron <b>**Soltab**</b> 15mg</p> <p>Wellbutrin SR 150mg        Wellbutrin <b>**XL**</b> 150mg</p> <p>9. This will be in the Pharmacy computer system and will interface to MARs, Labels, and Omnicell cabinets.</p> <p>12. This list will be available on Greenlink and can be easily accessed by all in the organization.</p>

## LOOK ALIKE AND SOUND ALIKE DRUG NAMES

### Joint Commission Standard: MM.01.02.01

The hospital addresses the safe use of look-alike/sound-alike medications. Identify and, at a minimum, annually review a list of look-alike/sound-alike drugs used by the organization, and take action to prevent errors involving the interchange of these drugs. To help prevent errors with the Look Alike and Sound Alike drugs, the Pharmacy has implemented the following precautions: Tall Man lettering, separation of the drugs, and “high alert bins”. In addition, all Look Alike and Sound Alike drugs have alerts that flash on the Omnicell screen, the Pharmacy screen during order entry, and notes that appear on the MAR.

Brand name (UPPERCASE)    Generic name (lowercase)

**AVANDIA**  
(rosiglitazone)

**COUMADIN**  
(warfarin)

**CELEBREX**  
(celecoxib)

**CELEXA**  
(citalopram hydrobromide)

**CEREBYX**  
(fosphenytoin)

**CATAPRES**  
(clonidine)

**KLONOPIN**  
(clonazepam)

**ROXANOL, MSIR 20 mg/ml**  
(concentrated liquid morphine)

**morphine liquid**  
(conventional liquid morphine)

**ADRENALIN**  
(epinephrine)

**EPHEDRINE**  
(ephedrine)

**DILAUDID**  
(hydromorphone)

**ASTRAMORPH, DURAMORPH, INFUMORPH**  
(morphine)

**Vistaril, Atarax**  
(hydrOXYzine)

**Apresoline**  
(hydraLAZINE)

**HUMULIN**  
(human insulin)

**HUMALOG**  
(insulin lispro)

**NOVOLIN**  
(human insulin)

**NOVOLOG**  
(human insulin aspart)



**NOVOLIN 70/30**

(70% NPH and 30% regular)

**LIPID BASED AMPHOTERICIN**

**Ambisome**

(amphotericin B liposomal)

**Abelcet**

(Amphotericin B lipid complex)

**LIPID BASED DAUNORUBICIN  
AND DOXORUBICIN**

**Doxil**

(doxorubicin liposomal)

**Daunoxome**

(daunorubicin citrate liposomal)

**Ativan**

(lorazepam)

**Flagyl**

(metronIDAZOLE)

**OxyContin**

(oxycodone controlled release)

**Pitocin**

(oxytocin)

**Toprol XL**

(metoprolol extended release)

**VELBAN**

(vinblastine)

**ZYPREXA**

(olanzapine)

**NOVOLOG MIX 70/30**

(70% insulin aspart protamine and 30% insulin aspart)

**CONVENTIONAL FORMS OF AMPHOTERICIN**

**Amphocin, Fungizon Intravenous**

(amphotericin B desoxycholate)

**CONVENTIONAL FORMS OF DAUNORUBICIN  
AND DOXORUBICIN**

**Cerubidine**

(Daunorubicin, conventional)

**Adriamycin, Rubex**

(doxorubicin, conventional)

**Xanax**

(alprazolam)

**Glucophage**

(metFORMIN)

**oxycodone**

(immediate release)

**Pitressin**

(vasopressin)

**Topamax**

(topiramate)

**ONCOVIN**

(vincristine)

**ZYRTEC**

(cetirizine)



Please refer to The List of Look-Alike and Sound Alike Drugs which is posted on GreenLink. ***(GreenLink; Clinical Tools, Medication Resources (Floyd), Look Alike and Sound Alike Drugs)***

The detailed listing includes Potential Errors and Consequences if these drugs are interchanged as well as Specific Safety Strategies.