

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL
PHARMACY SERVICES**

CODE: 1.19.5
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SECTION: DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY

APPROVED: Thinh Tran, Pharm. D.

SUBJECT: LOOK-ALIKE, SOUND-ALIKE MEDICATIONS

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POLICY:

Formulate a list of look-alike/sound-alike (LASA) medication combinations and address special precautions or procedures for ordering, dispensing, and administering drugs with look-alike or sound-alike names and measures to prevent medication errors.

LIST:

- 1 epHEDrine and epINEPHrine
- 2 lamIVUDine and lamOTRIGine
- 3 HumULIN and HumALOG
- 4 LantUS and LentE
- 5 CeLebREx and CeRebYx and CeLeXA
- 6 KlONOPin and ClonIDinE
- 7 LamiSIL and LamiCTAL
- 8 foliC acid and foliNIC acid
- 9 hydrOXYzine and hydrALAZine
- 10 traMAAdoL and trazodone
- 11 SEROquel® (quetiapine) and SERtraline (Zoloft®)
- 12 cefOXitin and cefEPIME
- 13 cefTRIAZONE and cefEPIME

PROCEDURE:

- 1 Prescriptions should clearly specify the dosage form, drug strength, and complete directions. Whenever possible and necessary, indications should be included on outpatient prescriptions and on inpatient PRN orders.
- 2 Whenever possible and necessary, the purpose of the medication should be determined prior to dispensing or administering the medication.
- 3 Name alert stickers for look-alike/sound-alike medications will be utilized in the Pharmacy as needed.
- 4 Look-alike/sound-alike medications will be segregated from their counterparts in designated colored bins. The exception is in the Inpatient Pharmacy where the bins will have “Look-Alike/Sound-Alike” labels in the Talyst system.
- 5 Two independent checks will be used for look-alike/sound-alike medications in the Pharmacy.
- 6 Error and potentially hazardous conditions with look-alike/sound-alike product names will be reported to the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, forwarded to Pharmacy, and shared at the P&T Committee meetings.
- 7 The list will be reviewed and revised as appropriate on at least an annual basis.

Reviewed: 4/28/14bj, 11/14/2018bdk, 4/19/2022 TT

Approved By: 