

5.09 Look-Alike/Sound-Alike, Drug Alert and Most Prescribed Medications

Purpose

The policy provides guidelines on handling medications to improve the safety of using medications. Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA) medication refers 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, transcribing, dispensing, and/or administering medication.

The Joint Commission (TJC) Medication Management (MM) standards require institutions to address the safe use of LASA medication by developing a list of such medications and taking proactive steps to prevent errors involving the interchange of these agents.

Policy

Look-Alike/Sound-Alike

QA/QI committee will identify, review, and update annually a list of the most commonly prescribed medications used by each clinical department. The medication list will utilize the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) recommended Tall Man Letter (mixed case) and List of Confused Drug Names for reference. The lists will be used in the clinic to ensure that safeguards are in place to prevent medication errors and protect our patients.

Scope

This policy applies to all SCCHC members responsible for handling medications; not limited to employees, business associates, medical staff, volunteers, students, physical office staff, and other persons performing work for or at SCCHC.

1. Review the list of look-alike/sound-alike drugs and most prescribed medications used by each clinical department at least annually.
2. Whenever possible, determine the purpose of the medication before dispensing or administering it. Most products with look or sound-alike names are used for different purposes.
3. Change the appearance of look-alike/sound-alike product names in the med closet, shelf labels, and bins by highlighting through boldface, color, and/or tall man letters, the parts of the names that are different.
4. Affix "drug alert" stickers to areas where look or sound-alike products are stored.
5. When applicable, use a LASA sticker to help identify potential look-alike/sound-alike medications.
6. Report errors and potentially hazardous conditions with look and sound-alike product names and use the information to establish priorities for error reduction.
7. The following resources are recommended for additional information: ISMP (www.ismp.org):
 - [High-Alert Medications in Community/Ambulatory Care Setting](#)
 - [List of Confused Drug Names](#)
 - [List of Error-Prone Abbreviations](#)
 - [Look-Alike Drug Names with Recommended Tall Man \(Mixed Case\) Letters](#)

Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA), confused with medication in relation to the most commonly prescribed medications at South Cove Community Health Center

Please see below a ranked list of South Cove Community Health Center's highest prescribed drugs from our providers. This tool is to raise awareness of our most commonly prescribed medications and to flag medications identified by Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) as Look Alike, Sound Alike, or confused with medications. This is a clinic-specific list that does not include all drugs listed on the ISMP list. Our clinic-specific list will be reviewed yearly to reflect changes from year to year.

South Cove Community Health Center Top 10 Prescriptions	
Medication	Confused with
atorvastatin	atomoxetine
omeprazole	fomepizole
artificial tears	
vitamin D3	
acetaminophen	acetaZOLAMIDE
loratadine	loratadine-D
amLODIPine	aMILoride
metoprolol succinate ER	metoprolol succinate, metoprolol tartrate
metFORMIN	metroNIDAZOLE
losartan	

Note: Brand names start with an uppercase letter. Some brand names incorporate tall man letters in initial characters and may not be readily recognized as brand names.

Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA), confused with medication in relation to the most commonly prescribed pediatric medications at South Cove Community Health Center

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South Cove Community Health Center Top 10 Pediatric Prescriptions	
Medication	Confused with
acetaminophen	acetaZOLAMIDE
ibuprofen	
hydrocortisone topical	
vitamin d3	
diphenhydrAMINE	dimenhyDRINATE
loratadine	loratadine-D
amoxicillin	
Claritin	Clarispray, Claritin-D, Claritin-D 24, Claritin Eye
Alaway	
Tylenol Childrens	Tylenol PM

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Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA), confused with medication in relation to the most commonly prescribed adult medicine medications at South Cove Community Health Center

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South Cove Community Health Center Top 10 Adult Medicine Prescriptions	
Medication	Confused with
atorvastatin	atomoxetine
omeprazole	fomepizole
amLODIPine	aMILoride
vitamin D3	
metoprolol succinate ER	metoprolol succinate, metoprolol tartrate
loratadine	loratadine-D
losartan	
metFORMIN	metroNIDAZOLE
lisinopril	
calcium + vitamin D	

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Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA), confused with medication in relation to the most commonly prescribed behavioral health medications at South Cove Community Health Center

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South Cove Community Health Center Top 10 Behavioral Health Prescriptions	
Medication	Confused with
mirtazepine	
sertraline	cetirizine, Soriatane
FLUoxetine	PARoxetine, DULoxetine, Loxitane
FLUoxetine hydrochloride	PARoxetine, DULoxetine, Loxitane
Adderall XR	Adderall, Inderal
LORazepam	ALPRAZolam
traZODone	traMADol
Abilify	
risperiDONE	rOPINIRole
OLANZapine	QUEtiapine

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Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA), confused with medication in relation to the most commonly prescribed OB/GYN medications at South Cove Community Health Center

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South Cove Community Health Center Top 10 OB/GYN Prescriptions	
Medication	Confused with
triamcinolone acetonide topical	
ferrous sulfate	
Xulane	
metroNIDAZOLE	metFORMIN
Fluconazole	
Diflucan	Diprivan
Apri	
Ibuprofen	
Aviane	
Provera	Proscar, PROzac

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Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA), confused with medication in relation to the most commonly prescribed optometry medications at South Cove Community Health Center

Please see below a ranked list of South Cove Community Health Center's highest prescribed drugs from our providers. This tool is to raise awareness of our most commonly prescribed medications and to flag medications identified by Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) as Look Alike, Sound Alike, or confused with medications. This is a clinic-specific list that does not include all drugs listed on the ISMP list. Our clinic-specific list will be reviewed yearly to reflect changes from year to year.

South Cove Community Health Center top 10 Ophthalmology Prescriptions	
Medication	Confused with
Artificial Tears	
erythromycin ophthalmic	
Alaway	
Refresh Optive	
Restasis	
Tobradex	Tobrex
Refresh Plus	
Zaditor	
lubricant eye ointment	
Zaditor OTC	

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Look-Alike / Sound-Alike (LASA), confused with medication in relation to the most commonly prescribed dental medications at South Cove Community Health Center

Please see below a ranked list of South Cove Community Health Center's highest prescribed drugs from our providers. This tool is to raise awareness of our most commonly prescribed medications and to flag medications identified by Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) as Look Alike, Sound Alike, or confused with medications. This is a clinic-specific list that does not include all drugs listed on the ISMP list. Our clinic-specific list will be reviewed yearly to reflect changes from year to year.

South Cove Community Health Center Top 10 Dental Prescriptions	
Medication	Confused with
amoxicillin	
chlorhexidine gluconate	
Sodium Fluoride 5000 Plus	
chlorhexidine topical	
clindamycin	
ibuprofen	
Denta 5000 Plus	
Motrin Dual Action With Tylenol	
PreviDent 5000 Booster	
PreviDent 5000 Plus	

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