

Appendix A

Look alike/Sound alike Medication Names

The Physician's Desk Reference 2001 (55th Edition) identifies multiple medication names that can be problematic and contribute to errors because of the confusion over the similarity of names, either when written or spoken. They report that this confusion accounts for approximately 25% of all reports to the USP Medications Errors Reporting Program. They also identify that this confusion is compounded by illegible handwriting.

Drug Name	Confused With:		Drug Name	Confused With:
Accupril	Accutane		Azithromycin	Erythromycin
Accupril	Monopril		Benadryl	Benylin
Acetazolamide	Acetohexamide		Benylin	Ventolin
Acular	Ocular		Bepidil	Prepidil
Adderall	Inderal		Betagan	Betagen
Adenosine	Adenosine Phosphate		Betagan	Betoptic
Adriamycin	Aredia		Betoptic	Betoptic S
Adriamycin	Idamycin		Brevibloc	Brevital
Akarpine	Atropine		Bumex	Buprenex
Aldara	Alora		Bumex	Permax
Allegra	Viagra		Busirone	Bupropion
Allopurinol	Apresoline		Cafergot	Carafate
Alora	Aldara		Calan	Colace
Alprazolam	Lorazepam		Calciferol	Calcitriol
Altace	Amaryl		Captopril	Carvedilo
Altace	Artane		Carboplatin	Cisplatin
Alupent	Atrovent		Cardene	Cardizem
Amantadine	Ranitidine		Cardene	Cardura
Amantadine	Rimantadine		Cardene	Codeine
Amaryl	Altace		Cardene SR	Cardizem SR
Ambien	Amen		Cardiem	Cardizem
Amicar	Amikin		Cardizem CD	Cardizem SR
Amiloride	Amlodipine		Cardura	Coumadin
Amiodarone	Amrinone		Cardura	Ridaura
Amoxicillin	Amoxil		Carteolol	Carvedilol
Amonxicillin	Atarax		Cataflam	Catapres
Amrinone	Amiodarone		Cefaclor	Cephalexin
Anaspaz	Antispas		Cefazolin	Cefprozil
Ansaid	Asacol		Cefol	Cefzil
Anusol	Anusol-HC		Cefotan	Ceftin
Asacol	Os-Cal		Cefotaxime	Cefuroxime
Asparaginase	Pegaspargase		Cefprozil	Cefuroxime
Atarax	Ativan		Ceftazidime	Ceftizoxime
Attenuvax	Meruvax		Ceftin	Cefotan
Ceftin	Cefzil		Dicyclomine	Diphenhydramine
Ceftin	Cipro		Diflucan	Diprivan
Cefuroxime	Deferoxamine		Diovan	Dioval
Cefzil	Cefol		Diolvan	Zyban
Cefzil	Kefzol		Diphenatol	Diphenidol
Celebrex	Celexa		Ditropan	Diazepam
Celebrex	Cerebyx		Dobutamine	Dopamine
Celexa	Cerebyx		Dobutrex	Diamox
Celexa	Zyprexa		Dolobid	Slo-bid
Centoxin	Cytoxan		Doxepin	Doxycycline

Drug Name	Confused With:		Drug Name	Confused With:
Cephalexin	Cefaclor		Doxorubicin	Doxorubicin Liposomal
Cephalexin	Ciprofloxacin		Doxorubicin	Idarubicin
Chlorpromazine	Chlorpropamide		Dynabac	DynaCirc
Chlorpromazine	Prochlorperazine		Dynacin	DynaCirc
Claritin-D	Claritin-D 24 hour		Dynacin	Dynabac
Clinoril	Clozoral		Edecrin	Eulexin
Clinoril	Oruvail		Efudex	Eurax
Clomiphene	Clomipramine		Elavil	Oruvail
Clomipramine	Desipramine		Elavil	Plavix
Clonazepam	Clonidine		Eldepryl	Enalapril
Clonazepam	Clorazepate		Elmiron	Imuran
Clonidine	Klonopin		Gemzar	Zinecard
Clonidine	Clonazepam		Glipizide	Glyburide
Codeine	Iodine		Glucophage	Glutofac
Codeine	Lodine		Glucotrol	Glucotrol XL
Cognex	Corgard		Glucotrol	Glyburide
Cortef	Lortab		Granulex	Regranex
Covera	Provera		Haldol	Stadol
Cozaar	Zocor		Halperidol	Halotestin
Cyclobenzaprine	Cyproheptadine		Hemoccult	Seracult
Cyclophosphamide	Cyclosporine		Heparin	Hespan
Cycloserine	Cyclosporine		Humalog	Humulin
Cytarabine	Cytosar		Hydralazine	Hydroxyzine
Cytarabine	Cytosan		Hydrocodone	Hydrocortisone
CytoGam	Gamimune N		Hydromorphone	Morphine
Cytosar	Cytovene		IMDUR	Imuran
Cytosar	Cytosan		IMDUR	Inderal LA
Cytosar-U	Neosar		IMDUR	K-Dur
Cytotec	Cytosan		Imipenem	Omnipen
Danazol	Dantrium		Imovax	Imovax ID
Darvon	Diovan		Imuran	Tenormin
Daunorubicin	Doxorubicin		Inderal	Isordil
Daypro	Diupres		Inderal	Toradol
Demerol	Desyrel		Iodine	Lodine
Denavir	Indinavir		K-Phos Neutral	Neutra-Phos-K
Depakote	Senokot		Lamictal	Lamisil
Depo-Estradiol	Depo-Testadiol		Lamictal	Lomotil
Desferal	DexFerrum		Lamictal	Ludiolmil
Desipramine	Imipramine		Lamisil	Lomotil
Desimpramine	Nortriptyline		Lamivudine	Lamotrigine
DiaBeta	Zebeta		Lanoxin	Lasix
Diamox	Dobutrex		Lanoxin	Lomotil
Diazepam	Lorazepam		Lanoxin	Levoxine
Equagesic	EquiGestic		Lanoxin	Levoxyl
Erex	Urex		Lanoxin	Lonox
Erythrocin	Ethmozine		Lanoxin	Xanax
Eskalith	Estratest		Lasix	Lomotil
Estraderm	Testoderm		Lasix	Luvox
Estratab	Estratest		L-Dopa	Levodopa
Estratest	Estratest HS		L-Dopa	Methyldopa
Etidronate	Etomidate		Leucovorin	Leukine
Etidronate	Etretinate		Leucovorin	Leukeran
Eulexin	Edecrin		Leukine	Leukeran
Fam-Pren Forte	Parafon Forte		Levbid	Lithobid
Fentanyl Citrate	Sufentanil Citrate		Levbid	Lopid

Preventing Medical Errors: A Mandated Responsibility

Drug Name	Confused With:		Drug Name	Confused With:
Fioricet	Fiorinal		Levbid	Lorabid
Flomax	Fosamax		Levobunolol	Levocabastine
Flomax	Volmax		Levodopa	Methyldopa
Flucytosine	Fluorouracil		Levoxine	Levsin
Fludara	FUDR		Levoxyl	Luvox
Fludarabine	Flumadine		Librax	Librium
Flurazepam	Temazepam		Lioresal	Lotensin
Folic Acid	Folinic Acid		Lisinopril	Risperdal
Furosemide	Torsemide		Lithobid	Lithostat
Loniten	Lotensin		Nicoderm	Nitroderm
Lopid	Lorabid		Nimbex	Revox
Lopid	Slo-bid		Noroxin	Norfloxacin
Lorabid	Lortab		Noroxin	Neurontin
Lorabid	Slo-bid		Norpramin	Nortriptyline
Lortab	Luride		Nortriptyline	Desipramine
Losartan	Valsartan		Ocufen	Ocuflox
Lotensin	Lovastatin		Ocufen	Occupress
Lotrimin	Lotrisone		Ocu-Mycin	Ocumycin
Loxitane	Soriatane		Omnipen	Imipenem
Ludiomil	Lamictal		Ortho-Cept	Ortho-Cyclen
Luride	Lortab		Oxycodone	OxyContin
Luvox	Lasix		Paclitaxel	Paroxetine
Luvox	Levoxyl		Paclitaxel	Paxil
Medi-Gesic	Medigesic		Parafon Forte	Fam-Pren Forte
Medrol ADT	Medrol Dosepak		Paraplatin	Platinol
Medroxy-progesterone	Methyl-prednisolone		Parlodel	Pindalol
Megace	Reglan		Paxil	Taxol
Mepron (Atovaquone in US)	Mepro (Meproamate in Australia)		Pediapred	Pediazole
Meruvax	Attenuvax		Pegaspargase	Aspargase
Methadone	Methylphenidate		Penicillamine	Penicillin
Methotrexate	Metolazone		Penicillin	Penicillin G
Methylphenidate	Methotrexate		Pentobarbital	Phenobarbital
Methyldopa	L-Dopa, Levodopa		Perative	Periactin
Methylprednisolone	Prednisone		Percocet	Percodan
Metoclopramide	Metolazone		Pindolol	Plendil
Metoprolol	Misoprostol		Pitocin	Pitresin
Micro-K	Micronase		Plendil	Prilosec
Minoxidil	Monopril		Plendil	Prinivil
Mitomycin	Mitoxantrone		Pondimin	Prednisone
Monoket	Monopril		Potassium Phosphates	Sodium Phosphates
Murocel	Murocoll-2		Pravachol	Prevacid
Naprelan	Naprosyn		Pravachol	Propranolol
Narcan	Norcuron		Precare	Precose
Nasal crom	Nasalide		Prednisone	Pondimin
Nasarel	Nizoral		Prednisone	Prilosec
Navane	Norvasc		Prednisone	Primidone
Nebcin	Nubain		Premarin	Primaxin
Nelfinavir	Nevirapine		Premarin	Provera
Neocare	Neocate		Prevacid	Prinivil
Neorol	Nizoral		Prilosec	Prinivil
Neosar	Cytosar-U		Prilosec	Prozac
Nephrox	Niferex		Prinivil	Proventil
Neumega	Neupogen		Prochlorperazine	Chlorpromazine

Preventing Medical Errors: A Mandated Responsibility

Drug Name	Confused With:		Drug Name	Confused With:
Neurontin	Noroxin		Proctocort	Proctocream HC
Neutra-Phos-K	K-Phos Neutral		Profen	Profen II
Niacin	Nispan		Profen II	Profen LA
Nicardipine	Nifedipine		Prometazine	Promethazine w/Codeine
Nicardipine	Nimodipine		Propranolol	Propulsid
Proscar	ProSom			
Proscar	Prozac			
ProSom	Prozac		Verelan	Virilon
Quinidine	Quinine		Versed	Vistaril
Rantidine	Rimantidine		Vexol	VoSol
ReFresh (breath drops)	ReFresh (Lubricant eye drops)		Vinblastine	Vincristine
Relafen	Rezulin		Viracept	Viramune
Remeron	Zemuron		Vistaril	Zestril
Reno-M-60	Renografin-60		VoSol	Vexal
Reserpine	Risperdal		Xanax	Zantac
Reserpine	Risperidone		Xanax	Zyrtec
Retrovir	Ritonavir		Yocon	Zocor
Revox	ReVia		Zagam	Zyban
Rifabutin	Rifampin		Zantac	Zofran
Roxanol	Roxicet		Zantac	Zyrtec
Rynatan	Rynatuss		Zinacef	Zithromax
Salbutamol	Salmeterol		Zocor	Zolofl
Selegiline	Serentil		Zofran	Zantac
Selegiline	Sertraline		Zofran	Zosyn
Serentil	Serzone		Zolomitriptan	Sumatriptan
Seroquel	Serzone		Zonalon	Zone A Forte
Serzone	Selegiline		Zyban	Zagam
Sinequan	Serentil		Zyprexa	Celexa
Soma	Soma Compound		Zyprexa	Zyrtec
Sulfadiazine	Sulfasalazine			
Sulfasalazine	Sulfisoxazole			
Sumatriptan	Zolmitriptan			
Symmetrel	Synthroid			
Synagis	Synvisc			
Tegretol	Toradol			
Tenormin	Thiamine			
Tenormin	Trovan			
Tetracycline	Tetradecyl Sulfate			
Tigabine	Tizanidine			
Tiazac	Ziac			
Tobradex	Tobrex			
Tolazamide	Tolbutamide			
Toradol	Torcan			
Toradol	Tramadol			
Tramadol	Voltaren			
Trandate	Tridrate			
Triad (Butalbital/ Acetaminophen/Caffeine)	Triad (topical)			
Trifluoperazine	Trihexyphenidyl			
Tri-Norinyl	Triphasil			
Ultane	Ultram			
Ultram	Voltaren			
Uricit-K	Urised			

Preventing Medical Errors: A Mandated Responsibility

Drug Name	Confused With:		Drug Name	Confused With:
Uridon	Vicodin			
Vancenase	Vanceril			
Vancomycin	Vecuronium			
Vantin	Ventolin			
Vepesid	Versed			
Verapamil	Verelan			