



TOOLKIT 4 · MEDICATION SAFETY · TOOL 3 OF 5

Look-Alike / Sound-Alike Medicines — Facility List Template

Your own list, from your own formulary, reviewed yearly. With the WHO-recommended pairs to start from and the safeguards for each

Facility · pharmacy lead · date · next review

Pair (write with TALLman lettering)	Confusion type	Storage location A / B	Safeguard applied	Reviewed
hydrALAzine / hydrOXYzine	Sound-alike		TALLman labels; separate shelves	
DOPamine / DOBUTamine	Look-alike, sound-alike		TALLman; alert sticker	
vinCRIStine / vinBLAStine	Look-alike		Pharmacy-only dispensing; "fatal if given intrathecally" label	
predniSONE / predniSOLONE	Sound-alike		TALLman; prescriber writes indication	
ceFAZolin / cefTRIAXone / cefOTAXime	Look-alike (vials)		Separate bins; colour tags	
metFORMIN / metoPROLOL	Sound-alike		TALLman; generic-only prescribing	
oxyCODONE / oxyCONTIN / OxyNORM	Brand/generic		Prescribe generic + release form	
KCl 15% / NaCl 0.9% ampoules	Look-alike (ampoules)		KCl removed from wards	

How to build your list. Start from the pairs above and from every LASA error or near-miss reported in the last year. Walk the drug room: any two products that look alike side by side go on the list. Apply one safeguard per pair, write it here, and print the list for every drug room. Review yearly and whenever a new product enters the formulary.

ASF standards: Standard 4 — medication safety (means of verification: facility LASA list, dated, displayed)