

# Look-Alike, Sound-Alike (LASA) &

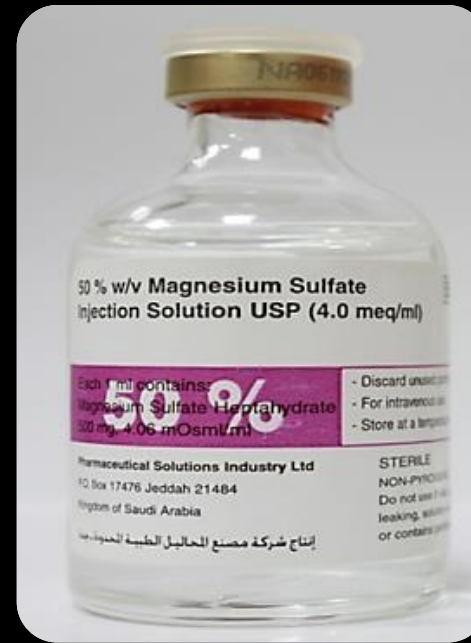
## Error-Prone Abbreviations



# Learning Objectives

- Define LASA Drugs
- Improve Awareness of LASA Drugs
- Share our experiences
- Identify Error-prone abbreviations
- Identify strategies to minimize risks
- Identify strategies to improve

# Look-Alike Medications



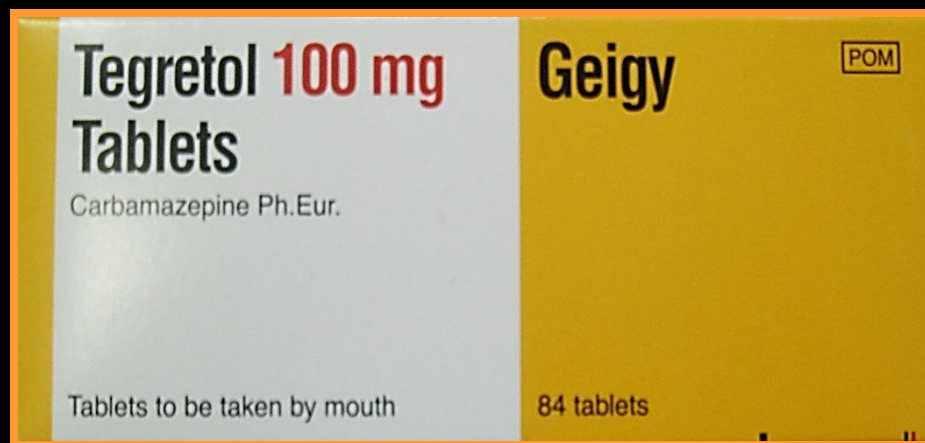
**Drugs with similar names or packaging that can add to confusion and lead to errors.**

# Sound-Alike:

Refers to drug names which due to their pronunciation, may sound similar to other drugs

Prescribed	Given	ADE
LOSEC (omeprazole)	LASIX (furosemide)	Death
Morphine	<b>HYDRO</b> morphone	Respiratory Arrest, Death
Chlorpro <b>MAZINE</b>	Chlorpro <b>PAMIDE</b>	Anoxic Brain damage from sustained hypoglycemia

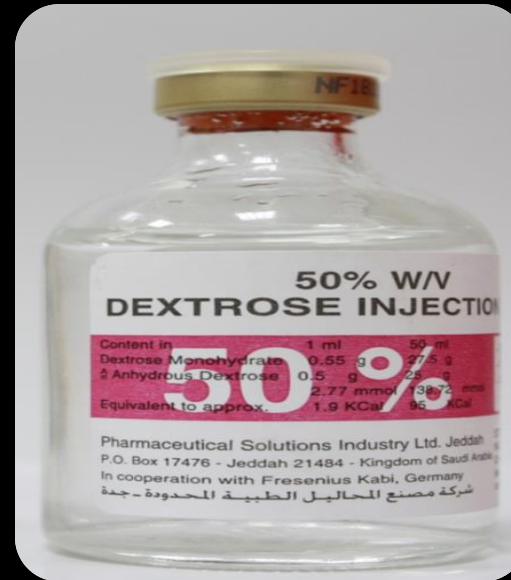
# Similar Packaging / Poor Design



# Strategies to Minimize Risks

- Awareness of LASA drug names (APP 1429-02)
- Complete prescription (dose, strength, etc.)
- Prescriber documents indication for medication
- Computerized Prescriber Order Entry (CPOE)
- Verbal & Telephonic orders permitted **only** in emergent or urgent situations
- Use of generic names
- Medication segregation
- Use of **TALL** man lettering

# Preventative Strategies



# Improve Readability

**Proprietary Name**  
**Generic Name 10mg**  
contains 0mg ingredient and ingredient

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Each tablet contains  
ingredient equivalent to 0mg of  
ingredient and 0mg ingredient

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**28 Tablets**

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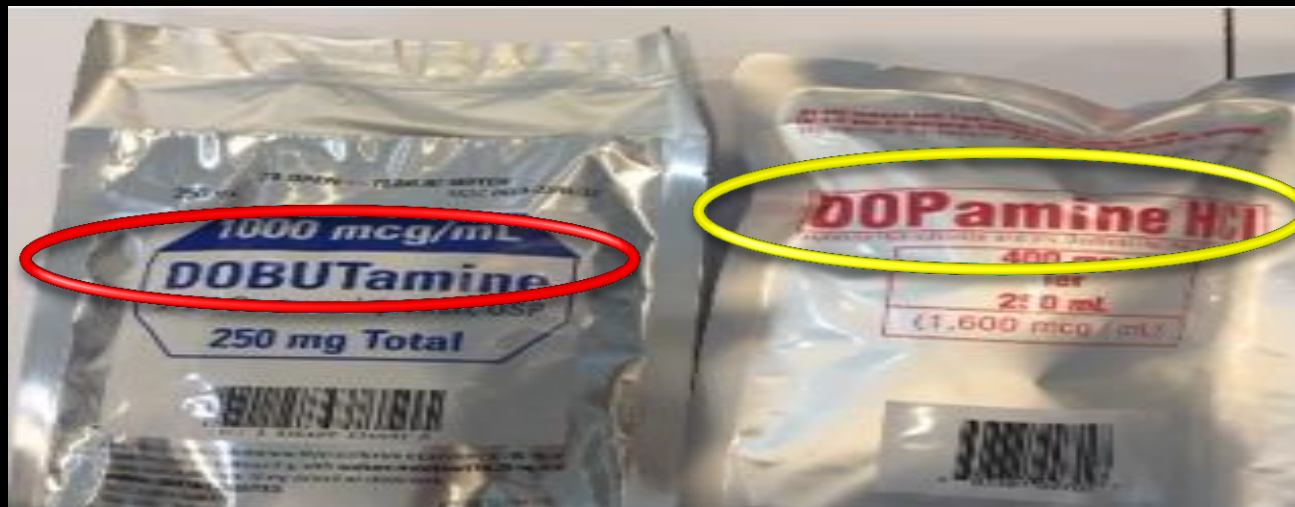
Distributed by  
Company Pharmaceuticals  
123 Any Road  
Any town  
Any postcode

Products license holder  
123 Any Road  
Any town  
Any postcode  
Code 00/00000,0000/0000,00  
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**Proprietary Name**  
**Generic Name**  
**Capsules**

**10 mg**

**28 Capsules**

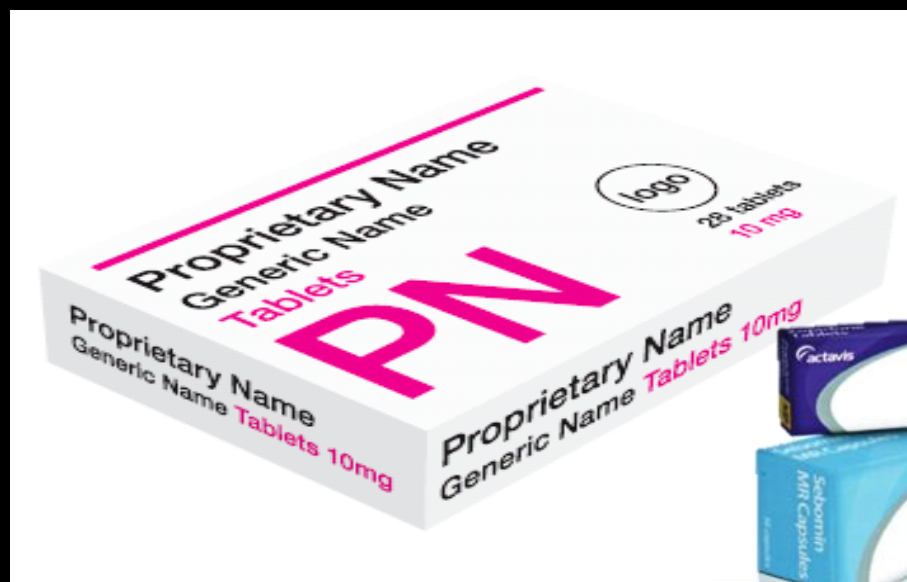




# Color Differentiation



# Critical Information in the Same Field of Vision on at least Three Non-opposing Faces



**Re-designed  
Packaging**

# Trademark Suffixes

**Suffixes** are placed after the stem of a word. It may be a letter, number or combination of letters and / or numbers (e.g., SR, LA, CR, ER, XL).



# LASA: List Maintained by SMSC

CEMOTHERAPY: No TALL man

Adriamycin	mg	IV	
ARA-C	mg	IV	
BCNU	mg	IV	
Bleomycin	units	IV	
Carboplatin	mg	IV	
Cisplatin 360	mg	IV	
Cytosar	mg	IV	
DTIC	mg	IV	
Etoposida	mg	IV	ml D5W over
Fluorouracil	mg	IV	
Iflex	mg	IV	ml NSS over
Leucovorin	mg	IV	ml NSS over
Mesna	mg	IV	in 50 NSS over 15min
Methotrexate	mg	IV	
Mitomycin C	mg	IV	
Novantrone	mg	IV	in 50 NSS over 15min
Taxol	mg	IV	in D5W over
Vinblastine	mg	IV	
Vincristine	mg	IV	
Vinorelbine	mg	IV	in D5W over

32218

CeFAZolin 1 gram injection

LASA

32275

CefTAZidime 1 gram injection

LASA

CeFAZolin Injection

Cefotaxime Injection

CefTAZidime Injection

CefTRIAxone Injection

32271

CefTRIAxone 1 gram injection

LASA

# Error-Prone Abbreviations, Symbols, and Dose Designations



# APP 1427-16 Error-Prone Abbreviations, Symbols, and Dose Designations

- Refers to abbreviations, symbols, or dose designations that have been shown to cause errors and compromises patient safety.
- Orders that are illegible or contain Error-Prone abbreviations will **NOT** be carried out

**One Stop Resource**

## URL

1419-08 Patient Informed Consent

1423-05 Sentinel Events and Root Cause Analysis

1426-01 Drug Samples

1426-18 Patient & Family Education

1427-16 Error-Prone Abbreviations, Symbols, and Dose Designations

1427-29 Recall of Medications, Medical Supplies, Devices and Equipment

1428-10 Medical Credentialing, Privileging, & Promotions

1429-02 Look-Alike, Sound-Alike & High Alert Medications

1429-03 Prescribing & Dispensing Medication Guidelines

1429-19 Conflict of Interest

# Error-Prone Abbreviations

DO NOT USE	USE
U	Unit
IU	International Unit
Q.D, QD, q.d, qd	Daily
Q.O.D, QOD, q.o.d, qod	Every other day
Trailing zero (X.0)	X mg
Lack of leading zero (.X)	0.X mg
MSO4	Morphine sulfate
MgSO4	Magnesium sulfate
µg	mcg
cc	ml
D/C	“Discharge” or “Discontinue”
HS	“Half strength” or “bedtime”
SC, SQ, sub q	“ subcut” or “subcutaneous”
> and <	“greater than” or “less than”

# The power of the human mind

According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are. The only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh?



# Legibility!

Amoxicillin 8 mg  
PO daily

Amoxicillin 2 mg

# Insulin "U" vs. "Unit"

• Insulin regular by sliding scale S/C  $\frac{S}{C} \times 60$

$< 8$	$\rightarrow$	2U
8.1-10	$\rightarrow$	20
10.1-12	$\rightarrow$	4U
12.1-14	$\rightarrow$	6U
14.1-16	$\rightarrow$	8U
16.1-18	$\rightarrow$	10U
18.1-20	$\rightarrow$	12U

$> 20 \rightarrow$  MOC

# Medication Names Must Not be Abbreviated

**AZT**

**Zidovudine**

Mistaken as **Azathioprine** or **Aztreonam**

**“Nitro” drip**

**Nitroglycerin infusion**

Mistaken as **Sodium Nitroprusside infusion**

**USING ABBREVIATIONS MAY  
SAVE MINUTES,  
  
PROHIBITING  
ABBREVIATIONS MAY SAVE  
LIVES**

**Safe Patient Care Is Our Goal**