

POLICY MANUAL

Subject: Look-A-Like or Sound-A-Like
Medication Precautions

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POLICY:

In order to minimize the risk of medication errors from look-alike or sound-alike medication, Cumberland Heights has developed the following practices.

PROCEDURE:

1. A list of medications with look-alike or sound-alike names that are commonly prescribed at the organization OR kept in stock is maintained in the nursing station.
2. When medications from the CH list are ordered verbally or by telephone, the licensed nurse spells the medication back to the physician during the read back process to confirm the correct medication.
3. Medications with look-alike or sound-alike names that are kept in stock are NOT stored side by side;
4. When administering medications from the CH list, the nurse verifies the correct medication with another licensed nurse prior to administration.
5. A list of medications with look-alike or sound-alike names from the Institute of Safe Medicine is kept at the nursing station as a reference for physicians and nursing staff.