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| **MONTCALM CARE NETWORK PROCEDURE 611 North State Street, Stanton, MI 48888** | |
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| SUBJECT: Safety Precautions for  Look-Alike or Sound-Alike  Medications | Section: 8305F |
| Effective Date: March 22, 2006 | Revised Date: August 26, 2015 |
| Version: 6 | Status: Current |

Medication names often sound-alike or medications can look-alike, increasing the risk of prescription dispensing or administration error. Because medications with sound-alike or look-alike can be confused and serious errors can occur, the following safety recommendations and practice procedures shall be used to minimize the risk of error:

1. Maintain awareness of look-alike, sound-alike drug names as attached to this procedure and published by the Institute of Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), the FDA or other safety agencies. A current list is available at www.ismp.org. Physicians are expected to review this list periodically.
2. Clearly document and know the purpose, dosage, and complete directions of all medications prescribed.
3. With name pairs known to be problematic, include the brand name and generic name on the prescription and alert patients to possible mix-ups.
4. Encourage patients to question doctors, nurses and pharmacists about medications that look or sound unfamiliar.
5. Provide telephone orders only to authorized nursing or medical personnel and only when necessary and in compliance with procedure #8305A. Include the medications purpose and insist that all telephone orders are read back, with spelling of the product name and indication.
6. Use electronic prescriptions whenever possible.
7. Ensure that all medications prescribed are included in patient records.