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	Effective Date:	12-31-2021
	Document Type:	Policy
	Page Number:	1 of 6
	Department/Section:	Pharmacy Division
	Document Title:	LOOK ALIKE SOUND ALIKE (LASA) MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE:

1. To develop a multidisciplinary policy and procedure on handling Look Alike Sound Alike (LASA) medications.
2. To prevent potentially harmful medication errors that may result from confusing medication names and similar product packaging.


LEVEL:

All Physicians, Nurse, Pharmacists and other Healthcare Professionals of Riverside Medical Center Incorporated.

DEFINITION OF TERMS:


Sound-Alike and Look-Alike Drug- these medications are visually similar in physical appearance or packaging and names of medications that have spelling similarities and/or similar phonetics.

Tall man lettering (tall-man lettering or tallman lettering) is the practice of writing part of a drug's name in upper case letters to help distinguish sound-alike, look-alike drugs from one another in order to avoid medication errors.

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POLICY:

1. The Riverside Medical Center, Inc. (RMCI) in conjunction with Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee shall approve and maintain a list of LASA medication and implement safety strategies with a goal of preventing errors resulting from the unintended interchange of LASA.
2. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee in coordination with the Pharmacy Department shall actively identify and manage the risks associated with LASA drugs.
3. The approved LASA list shall be reviewed annually and when revisions are necessary. This list shall be available to all patient care areas both inpatient and outpatient services. See Appendix A.
4. All healthcare professionals shall be updated of changes on the LASA list and confusing drug names.
5. Verbal orders shall not be accepted unless it is an emergent or urgent situation. Refer to Verbal and Telephone Medication Orders and Prescribing/Ordering of Medications-General Practices policies and procedures.
6. All RMCI staff shall be provided with education regarding the specific strategies required for the safe use of LASA Drug combinations.
7. All staff shall be provided education on LASA drugs during orientation and as part of continuing education.

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DOCUMENTATION:


New Policy

DISSEMINATION:






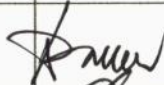

1. Hospital Communicator
2. Conducting hospital wide continuing education to all healthcare professionals.

REFERENCES:

1. Accreditation Canada Qmentum Standards 2016
2. ISMP Managing High Alert Medications
3. FDA and ISMP Lists of Look-Alike Drug Names with Recommended Tall Man Letter 2016.
4. ISMP Lists of Confused Drug Names 2019.
5. WHO, Handling Look-Alike/Sound-Alike Medication policy and procedure.
6. Joint commission.org-National Patient Safety Goals

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	HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua Total Quality Division Officer		3/3/2022
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APPENDIX A:

Table 1: TALLman Lettering for LASA Drug names Lists

Drug Name With Tall Man Letters	Confused Drug WITH
a MILoride	am LODIFine
am LODIFine	a MILoride
aza CITIDine	aza THIOprine
aza THIOprine	aza CITIDine
Brilinta	Brintellix
car BAMazepine	OXcarbazepine
car BAMazepine	OXcarbazepine
CARBOPlatin	CISplatin
CARBOPlatin	CISplatin
ce FAZolin	ce foTETan — ce foXitin — ce fTAZidime — ce fTRIAXone
CEFTioxime	CEFTioxime
ce foXitin	ce FAZolin — ce foTETan — ce fTAZidime — ce fTRIAXone
ce fTAZidime	ce FAZolin — ce foTETan — ce foXitin — ce fTRIAXone
ce fTRIAXone	ce FAZolin — ce foTETan — ce foXitin — ce fTAZidime
ce fuROXIME	ce fTRIAXone
cetirizine	sertraline
chl orproMAZINE**	chl ordiazepOXIDE
CISplatin	CARBOPlatin
cl obazam	cl onazepam
cl omiPHENE	cl omiPRAMINE
cl onazepam	cl onIDine — cl oZAPine — cl oBAZam — l oFazepam
cl onIDine	cl onazepam — cl oZAPine — cl onoPIN*
cl oZAPine	cl onazepam — cl onIDine
Cozaar	Zocor
cyclophosphamide	cycloSPORINE
D5% 1/4 NS 500 ml	D5% 1/2 NS 500 ml
D5% 500 ml	D5% NS 500 ml
D5% NS 500 ml	D5% 1/2 NS 500 ml
DACTINomycin	DAPTOMycin
Dansetron	Rolan
DAPTOMycin	DACTINomycin
DAUNORubicin	DOXORubicin
DAUNORubicin	IDARubicin
DEPO-Medrol*	SOLU-Medrol*
di azepam	di lTIAZem
di lTIAZem	di azepam
DOBUTamine	DOFamine
DOCEtaxel	PAClitaxel
DOXORubicin**	IDARubicin
DULoxetine	FLUoxetine — PARoxetine
e PIEDrine	EPINEPHrine
EPINEPHrine	e PIEDrine
ep IRUBicin	ep IBULin
ep IBULin	ep IRUBicin
f entanYL	SUFentanil
FLUoxetine	DULoxetine — PARoxetine
FLUoxetine	DULoxetine
fl UPHENAZine	fl uvoxamine
gl iPIDE	gl yBURIDE
gl yBURIDE	gl iPIDE
h umaLOG	h umulin
h umaLOG Mix 75/25	h umulin 70/30
h umulin	h umaLOG
h umulin 70/30	h umaLOG Mix 75/25
h YDRALAZINE	h ydroCHLORothiazide — h ydroXYzine**
h YDROcodone	oxyCODONE
h YDROXYprogesterone	medroxyPROGESTERone**
Hydrea	Lyrica
h ydroXYzine**	h YDRALAZINE** — h ydroCHLORothiazide
IDARubicin	DAUNORubicin — DOXORubicin** — idarubicin




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(continuation)

Drug Name With Tail Man Letters	Confused Drug WITH
Janumet	Januvia
Janumet	Sinemet
Januvia	Janumet
Lamictal	Lamictal
Lamictal	Lamictal
Lamivudine	lamotrigine
lamotrigine	Lamivudine
lamotrigine	levothyroxine
Lanoxin	levothyroxine
Lanoxin	naloxone
levETIRacetam	levOCARNitine — levoFLOXacin
LO Razeepam	ALPRAZolam — clonazepam
medroxyPROGESTERone	methylPREDNISolone - methylTESTOSTERone-HYDROXYprogesterone
metFORMIN	metronIDAZOLE
methylPREDNISolone	medroxyPROGESTERone - methylTESTOSTERone
methylTESTOSTERone	medroxyPROGESTERone - methylPREDNISolone
metronIDAZOLE	metFORMIN
niCARDipine	niMO Dipine - NIFE dipine**
NIFEdipin	niMO Dipine — niCARDipine**
niMO Dipine	NIFE dipine** - niCARDipine**
OLANzapine	QUETiapine
Oxcarbazepine	carBAMazepine
oxyCODONE	HYDROcodone — OxyCONTIN+ - oxyMORphone
OxyCONTIN+	oxyCODONE - oxyMORphone
PACLitaxel	LO Razeepam — clonazepam
PACLitaxel	DOCETaxel
PABrocetine	FLUoxetine — DU Loxetine
piroxicam	PABrocetine
prednisoLONE	predniSONE
predniSONE	prednisoLONE
Proscar	ProZAC
QUETiapine	OLANzapine
raNITidine	riMANTAdine
riFUXimab	inFLIXimab
SandoMMUNE	SandoSTATIN
SandoSTATIN	SandoMMUNE
sAXagliptin	SITagliptin
SERQuel	SERQuel XR
sertraline	cetirizine
Sinemet	Janumet
sitaGLIPtin	sAXagliptin — SU Matriptan
Solu-CORTEF	SOLU-Medrol+
SOLU-Medrol+	Solu-CORTEF+ — DEPO-Medrol+
Spiriva	Apidra
SUFentanyl	fentanyl
SUMatriptan	SITagliptin — ZOLMitriptan
Tarivid	Tavanic
Taxol	Taxotere
TEGretol+	TEGretol XR - TRENTal+
Tobradex	Tobrex
TOLAZamide	TOLBUTamide
TOLBUTamide	TOLAZamid
TRENTal	TEGretol
valACYclovir	valANAcyclovir
vinBLASTine	vinCRISTine
vinCRISTine	vinBLASTine
Xatral	Xarelto
Zantac	Zyrtec
Zecor	Cozaar
Zecor	Zyrtec
ZOLMitriptan	SUMatriptan

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	Document Title:	LOOK ALIKE SOUND ALIKE (LASA) MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE:


To establish a documented procedure for the implementation of the policy on Look-Alike Sound-Alike (LASA) medication management and to ensure that the procedure is done accordingly.

SCOPE:

Applies to all Pharmacy Division staff of Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:

Clinical Department Heads, Managers, Clinical Coordinator and Clinical Staff, Attending Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technicians, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

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PROCEDURE:

Reduction Strategies

1. Procurement

- 1.1. Minimize the availability of multiple medicines strengths.
- 1.2. Whenever possible, avoid purchase of medicines with similar packaging and appearance. As new products or packages are introduced, compare them with existing packaging.

2. Storage

- 2.1. Use Tall Man lettering in naming the storage bins to emphasize differences in medications with look alike and sound-alike names. Example of Tall Man lettering are metFORMIN and metoPROLOL.
- 2.2. Use additional warning sticker labels for look-alike and sound-alike medicines.

**LOOK ALIKE
SOUND ALIKE**

- 2.3. Place LASA drugs in locations separate from each other or in non-alphabetical order.
- 2.4. Routine audits of medication rooms in all patient care areas to ensure correct placement of medications.

3. Prescribing

- 3.1. Write legibly, using both the brand and generic names for prescribing Sound Alike- Look Alike Drug (if paper-based medication order).
- 3.2. Prescription shall clearly specify name of medication, dosage form, dose and complete direction for use.
- 3.3. Minimize LASA drugs formulary combinations.



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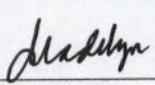

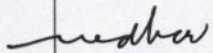


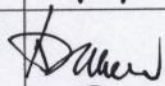
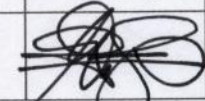
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3. FDA and ISMP Lists of Look-Alike Drug Names with Recommended Tall Man Letter 2016.
4. ISMP Lists of Confused Drug Names 2019.
5. WHO, Handling Look-Alike/Sound-Alike Medication policy and procedure.
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Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		3/3/22

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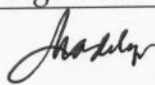


KEY TASKS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1. Minimizes the availability of multiple medicines strengths	Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
2. Avoids purchase of medicines with similar packaging and appearance	Pharmacy Inventory/ Procurement Section
3. Uses Tall Man lettering in naming the storage bins to emphasize differences in medications with look alike and sound-alike names	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician
4. Uses additional warning sticker labels for look-alike and sound-alike medicines	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician
5. Places LASA drugs in locations separate from each other or in non-alphabetical order	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician
6. Conducts routine audits of medication rooms in all patient care areas to ensure correct placement of medications	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician
7. Writes legibly, using both the brand and generic names for prescribing Sound Alike- Look Alike Drug	Attending Physician
8. Minimizes LASA drugs formulary combinations	Attending Physician
9. Identifies medicines based on its name and strength and not by its appearance or location	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician
10. Reads medication labels carefully at all dispensing stages and perform independent double-checking	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician
11. Highlights changes in medication appearances to patients upon dispensing	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician

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12. Reads carefully the label each time a medication is accessed, and/prior to administration and checks the purpose of the medication and the dose prior to administration	Nurse
13. Monitors new drugs added to the hospital formulary as they are released and provide guidelines to these new drugs	Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
14. Monitors patients who may have received wrong medications as results of LASA Drug error	Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Technician

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Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		7/1/22

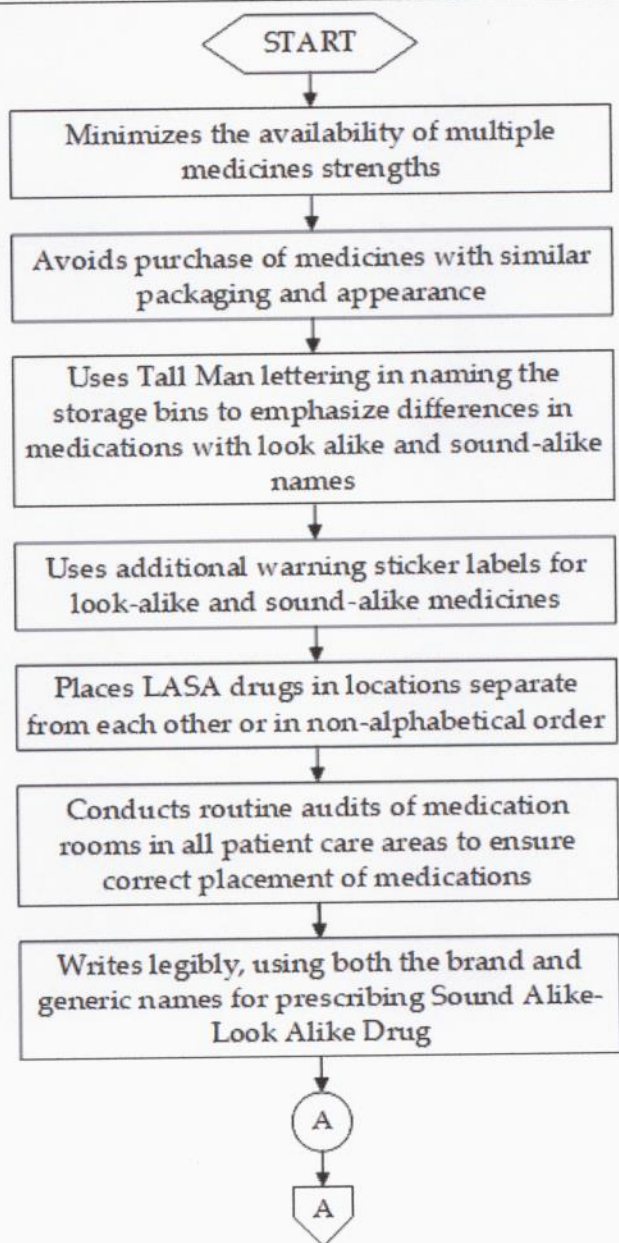


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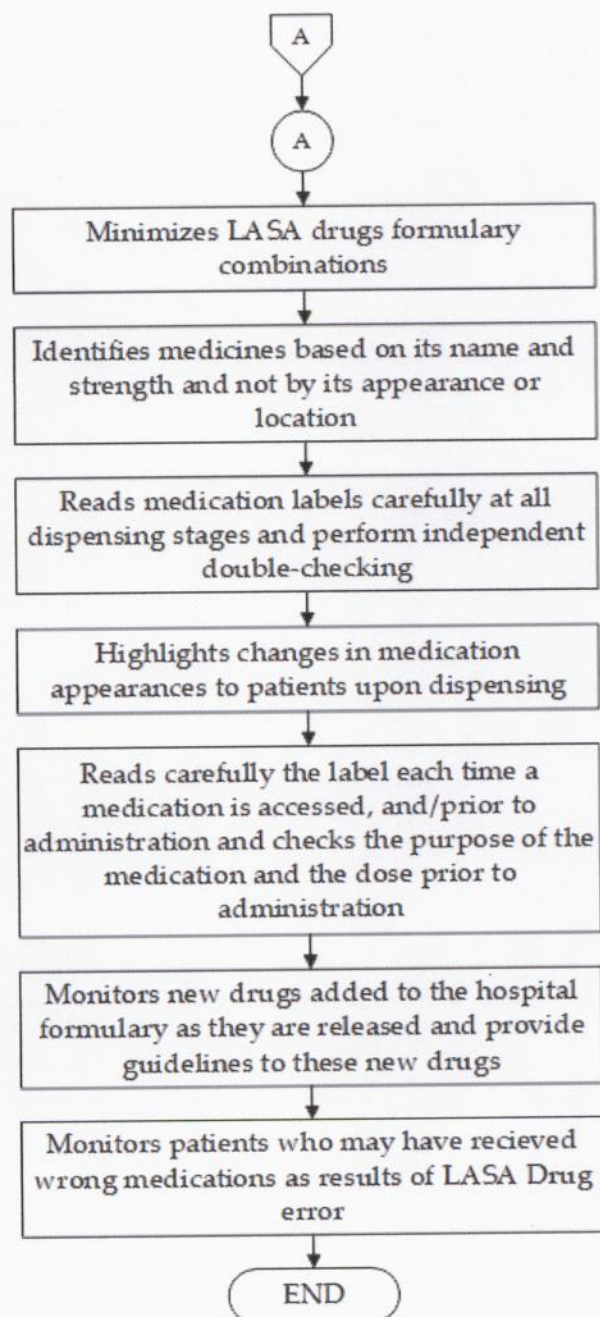
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FLOWCHART










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Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		7/1/22