

PRESCRIBING ERRORS SCREENED AND VERIFIED DURING DISPENSING PROCESS :

CASE 1 : SOUND ALIKE LEADING TO WRONG PRESCRIBING

Our surnames are similar.

Penicill.

But our last names are different.

Amine and Illin.

Cap. Penicillamine 250mg BD was prescribed as an antibiotic for a post-splenectomy patient instead of Cap. Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V) 250mg BD

Potential problem

Penicillamine (D-penicillamine) is NOT a penicillin antibiotic although it sounds slightly similar. Penicillamine is a heavy metal antagonist primarily used in *Wilson's disease*, a genetic disorder characterized by the excess build-up of copper in the body. A girl was wrongly administered penicillamine instead of penicillin and suffered a hypersensitivity reaction of the delayed type which ended fatally due to severe shock.

How to avoid

Double check the NAME of the drug as well as the INDICATION before prescribing into the system.

Do not assume that because the drug sounds similar to a drug you are familiar with, it is the same. Check our formulary app to see the different drug types available in our formulary.

	PenicillAMINE	PenicILLIN V
Mechanism of Action	Chelate heavy metals and form a soluble complex that is excreted in the urine	Disrupts bacterial cell wall synthesis by inhibiting penicillin-binding proteins
Common Dose	Wilson's disease: PO 250-500 mg/day; increase dose in 250 mg increments every 4 to 7 days to 15 to 20 mg/kg/day in 2 to 4 divided doses; max: 2 g/day	PO 125-500mg every 6-8 hours
Key Indication	Lead poisoning Wilson's Disease Rheumatoid Arthritis Cystinuria Chronic active hepatitis	Disease caused by penicillin-susceptible organisms
Synonyms	D-penicillamine Penicillamine	Penicillin Phenoxymethyl Penicillin V Potassium Phenomycilline Phenoxymethylpenicillin Phenoxymethylpenicillin Potassium
Packaging		

CASE 2 : SAME DRUG IN SIMILAR CLASS

COXIBs- SIMILAR FAMILY

Cap. Celecoxib 400mg OD and Cap. Etoricoxib 60mg OD (painkillers) were both prescribed in the same prescription for one patient.

Potential problem

Both Celecoxib and Etoricoxib are nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Giving both concurrently increases the risk of gastrointestinal toxicity.

How to avoid

Avoid the concurrent use of more than one NSAID.
Check the list of drugs on your screen for any drugs of the same class before entering into the system.

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Leanne Lew Hwui Ser

Nur Hafiza Saripin

Produced by:

leannelew@hctm.ukm.edu.my

Contributors:

nurhafiza@hctm.ukm.edu.my

PDF version of this bulletin can be found at <https://hctm.ukm.my/farmasi/>

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