LASA (Look-Alike, Sound-Alike) A-listers

	5mg	10mg	25 / 50mg	100mg	300mg
See	Amlodipine	Amitriptyline	Atenolol	Allopurinol	
Think	AmLODipine	AmiTRIPtyline	ATENolol	AlloPURinol	

- Angina
- Other conditions caused by coronary artery disease
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)

- Depression
- Nerve pain
- Panic and anxiety disorders
- Prevention of migraine headaches

- Angina
- Hypertension
- Disturbances of heart rhythm

- Prevention of gout
- Uric acid kidney stones

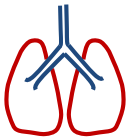
Dispensing errors involving these drugs may cause serious harm to patients.
Always triple check the **product name** and **strength.** Consider minimising selection error risks through: physical separation, visual warnings, shelf edgers, PMR prompts.

Information originally published by Boots UK, 2016

proPRANololL

Heart conditions & relief of situational anxiety

prEDNISoloNE



Reduces inflammation in asthma & rheumatism

Dispensing propranolol

- **Contra-indicated** for patients with some conditions (e.g. **asthma**)
- Taken **regularly** and continuously for cardiovascular conditions
- Taken **occasionally** for anxiety & migraine relief

Dispensing prednisolone

- Doses **vary** depending on the condition (between 5mg and 60mg daily)
- Ensure dispensing labels have **clear directions**
- Provide **counselling** & additional material
- Give **'Steroid Card'** for regular treatments

Check for potential drug interactions

Check the strength & formulation

⚠ If **propranolol** tablets are supplied in error, consequences include **bronchospasm** and **fall in blood pressure** which can cause **fainting**, **coma** or even **death**.

⚠ Rapid **withdrawal of high dose prednisolone** can be **dangerous**.

⚠ Dispensing **prednisolone** in error can cause many unpleasant side effects.

Information originally published by Boots UK, 2016

Carbamazepine is used to treat **epilepsy**, trigeminal neuralgia & bipolar disorder.
Side effects: nausea, vomiting, dizziness & allergic skin reactions.
In adults, carbamazepine is usually started at **100mg/300mg** daily and the **dose is increased** until seizures stop or side effects occur.
In adults, the average daily dose is 800-1200mg, but some people may need daily doses of 2000mg.

Carbimazole is used to treat an overactive thyroid gland (**hyperthyroidism**).

Side effects: headaches, sickness & joint pain.
The initial dose is **15-40mg** for adults and is usually **750mcg/kg** for children under 11 and 30mg for 12-17 year olds.
Once control is achieved, the **dose is reduced**.

Think about the person behind the prescription

Carbamazepine is broken down faster in **children**, so young children may require a larger dose than adults
Carbamazepine can make hormonal methods of birth control less effective, increasing **risk of pregnancy**
Carbamazepine can cause dizziness or blurry vision in **older people,** increasing the risk of falls

Carbamazepine and **Carbimazole** can cause **harm** to a developing foetus
Carbimazole can **affect other medicines** such as some anticoagulants, steroids, antibiotics & beta-blockers

Take extra care when selecting look-alike, sound-alike (**LASA**) medicines, especially when stored in close proximity

Think carbamaz**EPINE** & carbimaz**OLE**

Check the dose: **carbamazepine** is prescribed at a **much higher dose** compared to **carbimazole**.
To control seizures, the dose of **carbamazepine** is **gradually increased**, whereas **carbimazole** is taken at a **gradually reduced** dose once the hyperthyroidism is under control.

azAthioPRINE

immunosuppressant

- Available in **25mg** & **50mg** forms
- **High toxicity** - **regular monitoring** will be required during treatment
- Takes a long time to achieve desired effect; **28 or 56 day** supplies common
- Usually given **once or twice a day**

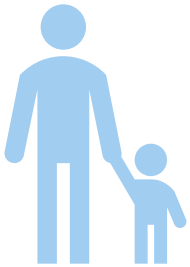
azIthroMYCIN

antibiotic

- Available in **250mg** & **500mg** forms (capsules & tablets)
- Antibiotic prescriptions are usually issued for a **3-10 day** course

  ! Think twice if you are dispensing **high** quantities !
- Usually taken **once a day**

Serious harm could occur if a patient receives the immunosuppressant azathioprine instead of the antibiotic azithromycin.



For children, liquids are available for both medicines.
Always **double check** the medication in hand when talking to parents about the child's **condition**, **dose** and **duration of treatment**.

Read the whole **name** of the medicine carefully
Consider whether the **dose prescribed** is reasonable
Check – does the patient have a **clear indication** for the medicine prescribed?

ATENOLOL

REPORT · LEARN · SHARE · ACT · REVIEW
BE OPEN & HONEST

Atenolol belongs to a group of drugs called **beta-blockers**
Beta-blockers affect the heart and circulation (blood flow through arteries and veins)
Atenolol is used to treat **angina** (chest pain) and **hypertension** (high blood pressure)
Lowering high blood pressure helps to **prevent strokes**, **heart attacks** and **kidney problems**

Most doses start at **25mg** to **50mg** once daily
Maximum licensed daily dose is **100mg**
Side effects include: dizziness, lowered blood pressure (hypotension), cold hands and feet, leg pain and fatigue

Think
aTENolol 100mg tablets
alloPURinol 100mg tablets

Take extra care when selecting look-alike, sound-alike (**LASA**) medicines with similar names, especially when stored in close proximity, e.g. **allopurinol**

Consider minimising selection error risks through:
physical **separation**, visual warnings, shelf **stickers** & PMR **prompts**

If atenolol is supplied in error to a patient with normal blood pressure, it could cause **loss of consciousness**, with increased **risk of a fall**. Think about the person behind every prescription – in frail or elderly patients this error could **cause severe harm or death.**

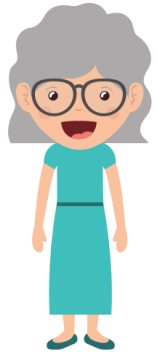
Information originally published by Boots UK, 2016

Quetiapine vs Quinine

Quetiapine is used for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, often first diagnosed in young adulthood.

The **initial dose is low**, so be aware of someone on a dose of 200mg or 300mg who has not had this previously.

Quinine is used for night time cramps, usually a problem associated with older people. It is taken at a dose of one 200mg or 300mg tablet at night.



If a person takes a 200mg or 300mg dose of **quetiapine** in error, the effects are likely to be serious:

- Stroke-like symptoms (e.g. affecting speech and movement)
- Drowsiness (leading to falls in the elderly)
- Seizures

Use the **patient's age** to think about the **person behind every prescription**
Consider minimising selection error risk through physical separation e.g. by moving quetiapine to 'Z' in your dispensary

Information originally published by Boots UK, 2016