


NH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE	CHAPTER <u>Health Services</u> STATEMENT NUMBER <u>6.63</u>
SUBJECT: FREQUENTLY CONFUSED MEDICATIONS PROPONENT: <u>Paula Mattis Administrative Director</u> <i>Name/Title</i> <u>Medical/Forensic Services 271-3707</u> <i>Office Phone #</i>	EFFECTIVE DATE <u>09/15/2020</u> REVIEW DATE <u>09/15/2023</u> SUPERSEDES PPD# <u>6.63</u> DATED <u>11/30/2012</u>
ISSUING OFFICER:  <u>Helen E. Hanks, Commissioner</u>	DIRECTOR'S INITIALS: _____ DATE: _____ APPENDIX ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____
REFERENCE NO: See reference section on last page of PPD.	

- (a) **PURPOSE:**
To identify sound alike/look alike medications in order to minimize the risk for confusion and medication occurrences.
- (b) **APPLICABILITY:**
To all healthcare staff.
- (c) **POLICY:**
It is the policy of the NH Department of Corrections (NHDOC) that action to reduce errors shall be taken for those medications known to be linked to medication errors, or have the potential to cause a medication occurrence, by maintaining a list of common and typical problem medications.
- (d) **PROCEDURE:**
1. A list of problem medications will be maintained and updated by the pharmacy with review by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee every two years. (Attachment 1.)
 2. Various steps may be utilized to ensure prevention of medication occurrences:
 - a. Staff education and awareness;
 - b. Relocation of medication on the shelf or medication cabinet to highlight potential for confusion and;
 - c. The NHDOC Pharmacy shall including both the brand and generic names on pharmacy labels.

REFERENCES:

Standards for Health Services in Prisons
 National Commission on Correctional Healthcare 2018 Edition P-D-02
List of Confused Drug Names
 Institute for Safe Medication Practices