

TALL Man Lettering

Several studies have shown that highlighting sections of drug names using TALL Man Letters can help distinguish similar drug names,¹ making them less prone to mix-ups.^{2,3} ISMP, FDA, The Joint Commission, and other safety-conscious organizations have promoted the use of TALL Man Letters as one means of reducing confusion between similar drug names.

Medical Pharmacies' continuous quality improvements include upgrading our drug file to contain TALL Man Lettering as one of our risk management initiatives.

Examples include:	
ALPRA zolam	LOR azepam
a MIL oride	am LODIP ine
ARIP iprazole	RABE prazole
car BAM azepine	ce FAZ olin
cefo TE tan	cefo OX itin
cef TAZ idime	cef TRIA Xone
Cele BREX *	Cele XA *
chlordiaze POXIDE	chlorpro MAZINE
Huma LOG *	Humu LIN *
HYDRO codone	oxy CODONE
HYDRO morphine	morphine
met FORMIN	metron NIDAZOLE
Novo LIN *	Novo LOG *
<i>*Brand names always start with an uppercase letter.</i>	

References:

1. Filik R, Purdy K, Gale A, Gerrett D. Drug name confusion: evaluating the effectiveness of capital ("Tall Man") letters using eye movement data. *Social Science & Medicine* 2004;59(12):2597-2601.
2. Filik R, Purdy K, Gale A, Gerrett D. Labeling of medicines and patient safety: evaluating methods of reducing drug name confusion. *Human Factors* 2006;48(1):39-47.
3. Grasha A. Cognitive systems perspective on human performance in the pharmacy: implications for accuracy, effectiveness, and job satisfaction. Alexandria (VA): NACDS; 2000 Report No. 062100.