

The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals

Background

In 1996, The Joint Commission (TJC) established the Sentinel Event Policy requiring accredited organizations to report and analyze all sentinel events*. The information collected as a result of this policy identified the following most common causes of sentinel events:

- Patient suicide
- Operative/post operative complications
- Wrong site surgery
- Medication errors
- Delays in treatment

In 2002, TJC began implementation of the National Patient Safety Goals program. Each year, experts recommend, emphasize, or de-emphasize certain patient safety goals based on analysis of the sentinel event program.

The National Patient Safety Goals promote and improve patient safety in certain identified problem areas. Where possible, the goals will focus on system-wide solutions. TJC monitors accredited organizations' compliance with those goals, and expects organizations to be in compliance with the 2012 goals from January 1, 2013 forward. **There are no new goals for 2013.**

*"A sentinel event is an unexpected occurrence involving death or serious physical or psychological injury, or the risk thereof. Serious injury specifically includes loss of limb or function. The phrase, "or the risk thereof" includes any process variation for which a recurrence would carry a significant chance of a serious adverse outcome. "Such events are called "sentinel" because they signal the need for immediate investigation and response."

(TJC's Sentinel Event Policy And Procedures Revised: July 2002)

How Do Healthcare Organizations Address the National Patient Safety Goals?

According to TJC, "the NPSGs are prioritized from a "pool" of recommendations identified by the Patient Safety Advisory Group as evidence- or consensus-based, cost-effective and practical." Each organization chooses to address and implement the goals in the manner that makes the most sense for that organization, and those organizations may even offer alternatives to the specific recommendations of TJC.

When answering the exam questions, use the following Joint Commission (TJC) documents as your guide. The first document is TJC's quick guide to the 2013 Goals, the second is the list of Do Not Use abbreviations, and the third is their list of drug names that are often confused.

2013 Hospital National Patient Safety Goals

The purpose of the National Patient Safety Goals is to improve patient safety. The goals focus on problems in health care safety and how to solve them.

Identify patients correctly

NPSG.01.01.01

Use at least two ways to identify patients. For example, use the patient's name *and* date of birth. This is done to make sure that each patient gets the correct medicine and treatment.

NPSG.01.03.01

Make sure that the correct patient gets the correct blood when they get a blood transfusion.

Improve staff communication

NPSG.02.03.01

Get important test results to the right staff person on time.

Use medicines safely

NPSG.03.04.01

Before a procedure, label medicines that are not labeled. For example, medicines in syringes, cups and basins. Do this in the area where medicines and supplies are set up.

NPSG.03.05.01

Take extra care with patients who take medicines to thin their blood.

NPSG.03.06.01

Record and pass along correct information about a patient's medicines. Find out what medicines the patient is taking. Compare those medicines to new medicines given to the patient. Make sure the patient knows which medicines to take when they are at home. Tell the patient it is important to bring their up-to-date list of medicines every time they visit a doctor.

Prevent infection

NPSG.07.01.01

Use the hand cleaning guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization. Set goals for improving hand cleaning. Use the goals to improve hand cleaning.

NPSG.07.03.01

Use proven guidelines to prevent infections that are difficult to treat.

NPSG.07.04.01

Use proven guidelines to prevent infection of the blood from central lines.

NPSG.07.05.01

Use proven guidelines to prevent infection after surgery.

NPSG.07.06.01

Use proven guidelines to prevent infections of the urinary tract that are caused by catheters.

Identify patient safety risks

NPSG.15.01.01

Find out which patients are most likely to try to commit suicide.

Prevent mistakes in surgery

UP.01.01.01

Make sure that the correct surgery is done on the correct patient and at the correct place on the patient's body.

UP.01.02.01

Mark the correct place on the patient's body where the surgery is to be done.

UP.01.03.01

Pause before the surgery to make sure that a mistake is not being made.



This is an easy-to-read document. It has been created for the public. The exact language of the goals can be found at www.jointcommission.org.



Facts about the Official "Do Not Use" List

In 2001, The Joint Commission issued a *Sentinel Event Alert* on the subject of medical abbreviations, and just one year later, its Board of Commissioners approved a National Patient Safety Goal requiring accredited organizations to develop and implement a list of abbreviations not to use. In 2004, The Joint Commission created its "do not use" list of abbreviations (see below) as part of the requirements for meeting that goal. In 2010, NPSG.02.02.01 was integrated into the Information Management standards as elements of performance 2 and 3 under IM.02.02.01.

Currently, this requirement does not apply to preprogrammed health information technology systems (for example, electronic medical records or CPOE systems), but this application remains under consideration for the future. Organizations contemplating introduction or upgrade of such systems should strive to eliminate the use of dangerous abbreviations, acronyms, symbols, and dose designations from the software.

Official "Do Not Use" List¹

Do Not Use	Potential Problem	Use Instead
U, u (unit)	Mistaken for "0" (zero), the number "4" (four) or "cc"	Write "unit"
IU (International Unit)	Mistaken for IV (intravenous) or the number 10 (ten)	Write "International Unit"
Q.D., QD, q.d., qd (daily)	Mistaken for each other	Write "daily"
Q.O.D., QOD, q.o.d, qod (every other day)	Period after the Q mistaken for "I" and the "O" mistaken for "l"	Write "every other day"
Trailing zero (X.0 mg)* Lack of leading zero (.X mg)	Decimal point is missed	Write X mg Write 0.X mg
MS	Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate	Write "morphine sulfate" Write "magnesium sulfate"
MSO ₄ and MgSO ₄	Confused for one another	

¹ Applies to all orders and all medication-related documentation that is handwritten (including free-text computer entry) or on pre-printed forms.

*Exception: A "trailing zero" may be used only where required to demonstrate the level of precision of the value being reported, such as for laboratory results, imaging studies that report size of lesions, or catheter/tube sizes. It may not be used in medication orders or other medication-related documentation.

The National Summit on Medical Abbreviations

Participants at the November 2004 National Summit on Medical Abbreviations supported the "do not use" list. Summit conclusions were posted on the Joint Commission website for public comment. During the four-week comment period, the Joint Commission received 5,227 responses, including 15,485 comments. More than 80 percent of the respondents supported the creation and adoption of a "do not use" list. This special one-day Summit brought together representatives of more than 70 professional societies and associations and special interest groups to discuss medical errors related to the misuse and misinterpretation of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols. The objective of the Summit was to reach consensus on the scope and implications of this serious and complex problem and to find reasonable solutions using all of the evidence at hand and in the most dispassionate way possible.

The National Summit on Medical Abbreviations was hosted by The Joint Commission with its co-conveners American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Dental Association,

American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Institute for Safe Medication Practices, and United States Pharmacopeia. Approximately 50 professional societies and associations and selected interest groups participated in the Summit representing every perspective.

For more information

Contact the Standards Interpretation Group at (630) 792-5900, or complete the Standards Online Question Submission Form at <http://www.jointcommission.org/Standards/OnlineQuestionForm/>.

Institute for Safe Medication Practices

ISMP's List of *Confused Drug Names*

This list of confused drug names, which includes look-alike and sound-alike name pairs, consists of those name pairs that have been published in the *ISMP Medication Safety Alert*[®] and the *ISMP Medication Safety Alert*[®] Community/Ambulatory Care Edition. Events involving these medications were reported to ISMP through the ISMP National Medication Errors Reporting Program (ISMP MERP).

We hope you will use this list to determine which medications require special safeguards to reduce the risk of errors. This may include strategies such as: using both the brand and generic names; including the purpose of the medication on prescriptions; configuring computer selection screens to prevent look-alike names from appearing consecutively; and changing the appearance of look-alike product names.

Updated through June 2011

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name	Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Abelcet	amphotericin B	amLODIPine	aMILoride
Accupril	Aciphex	amphotericin B	Abelcet
acetaZOLAMIDE	acetoHEXAMIDE	amphotericin B	Ambisome
acetic acid for irrigation	glacial acetic acid	Anacin	Anacin-3
acetoHEXAMIDE	acetaZOLAMIDE	Anacin-3	Anacin
Aciphex	Accupril	antacid	Atacand
Aciphex	Aricept	Antivert	Axert
Activase	Cathflo Activase	Anzemet	Avandamet
Activase	TNKase	Apresoline	Priscoline
Actonel	Actos	argatroban	Aggrastat
Actos	Actonel	argatroban	Orgaran
Adacel (Idap)	Daptacel (DTaP)	Aricept	Aciphex
Adderall	Inderal	Aricept	Azilect
Adderall	Adderall XR	ARIPiprazole	proton pump inhibitors
Adderall XR	Adderall	ARIPiprazole	RABEprazole
Advair	Advicor	Asacol	Os-Cal
Advicor	Advair	Atacand	antacid
Advicor	Altacor	Atrovent	Natru-Vent
Afrin (oxymetazoline)	Afrin (saline)	Avandamet	Anzemet
Afrin (saline)	Afrin (oxymetazoline)	Avandia	Prandin
Aggrastat	argatroban	Avandia	Coumadin
Aldara	Alora	AVINza	INVanz
Alkeran	Leukeran	AVINza	Evista
Alkeran	Myleran	Axert	Antivert
Allegra	Viagra	azaCITIDine	azaTHIOprine
Alora	Aldara	azaTHIOprine	azaCITIDine
ALPRAZolam	LORazepam	Azilect	Aricept
Altacor	Advicor	B & O (belladonna and opium)	Beano
amantadine	amiodarone	BabyBIG	HBIG (hepatitis B immune globulin)
Amaryl	Reminyl	Bayhep-B	Bayrab
Ambisome	amphotericin B	Bayhep-B	Bayrho-D
Amicar	Omacor	Bayrab	Bayhep-B
Amikin	Kineret	Bayrab	Bayrho-D
aMILoride	amLODIPine	Bayrho-D	Bayhep-B
amiodarone	amantadine	Bayrho-D	Bayrab

* Brand names always start with an uppercase letter. Some brand names incorporate tall man letters in initial characters and may not be readily recognized as brand names. Brand name products appear in black; generic/other products appear in red.

Cross Country University's Caregiver Safety Series

Institute for Safe Medication Practices

ISMP's List of *Confused Drug Names*

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name	Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Beano	B & O (belladonna and opium)	Claritin Eye (ketotifen fumarate)	Claritin (loratadine)
Benadryl	benazepril	Clindesse	Clindets
benazepril	Benadryl	Clindets	Clindesse
Benicar	Mevacor	clomiPHENE	clomiPRAMINE
Betadine (with providone-iodine)	Betadine (without providone-iodine)	clomiPRAMINE	clomiPHENE
Betadine (without providone-iodine)	Betadine (with providone-iodine)	clonazePAM	cloNIDine
Bextra	Zetia	clonazePAM	LORazepam
Bicillin C-R	Bicillin L-A	cloNIDine	clonazePAM
Bicillin L-A	Bicillin C-R	cloNIDine	KlonoPIN
Bicitra	Polycitra	Clozaril	Colazal
Bidex	Videx	coagulation factor IX (recombinant)	factor IX complex, vapor heated
Brethine	Methergine	codeine	Lodine
Brevibloc	Brevital	Colace	Cozaar
Brevital	Brevibloc	Colazal	Clozaril
buPROPion	busPIRone	colchicine	Cortrosyn
busPIRone	buPROPion	Comvax	Recombivax HB
Capadex [non-US product]	Kapidex	Cortrosyn	colchicine
Capex	Kapidex	Coumadin	Avandia
Carac	Kuric	Coumadin	Cardura
captopril	carvedilol	Cozaar	Colace
carBAMazepine	OXcarbazepine	Cozaar	Zocor
CARBOplatin	CISplatin	cycloSERINE	cycloSPORINE
Cardura	Coumadin	cycloSPORINE	cycloSERINE
carvedilol	captopril	Cymbalta	Symbyax
Casodex	Kapidex	DACTINomycin	DAPTOnycin
Cathflo Activase	Activase	Daptacel (DTaP)	Adacel (Tdap)
Cedax	Cidex	DAPTOmycin	DACTINomycin
ceFAZolin	cefTRIAXone	Darvocet	Percocet
cefTRIAXone	ceFAZolin	Darvon	Diovan
CeleBREX	CeleXA	DAUNOrubicin	DAUNOrubicin citrate liposomal
CeleBREX	Cerebyx	DAUNOrubicin	DOXOrubicin
CeleXA	ZyPREXA	DAUNOrubicin	IDArubicin
CeleXA	CeleBREX	DAUNOrubicin citrate liposomal	DAUNOrubicin
CeleXA	Cerebyx	Denavir	indinavir
Cerebyx	CeleBREX	Depakote	Depakote ER
Cerebyx	CeleXA	Depakote ER	Depakote
cetirizine	sertraline	Depo-Medrol	Solu-MEDROL
chlordiazePOXIDE	chlorproMAZINE	Depo-Provera	Depo-subQ provera 104
chlorproMAZINE	chlordiazePOXIDE	Depo-subQ provera 104	Depo-Provera
chlorproMAZINE	chlorproPAMIDE	desipramine	disopyramide
chlorproPAMIDE	chlorproMAZINE	dexmethylphenidate	methadone
Cidex	Cedax	Diabinese	Diamox
CISplatin	CARBOplatin	Diabeta	Zebeta
Claritin (loratadine)	Claritin Eye (ketotifen fumarate)	Diamox	Diabinese
Claritin-D	Claritin-D 24	Diffucan	Diprivan
Claritin-D 24	Claritin-D	Dilacor XR	Pilocar

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Dilaudid	Dilaudid-5	Femhrt	Femara
Dilaudid-5	Dilaudid	fentaNYL	SUFentanil
dimenhydrINATE	diphenhydrAMINE	Fioricet	Fiorinal
diphenhydrAMINE	dimenhydrINATE	Fiorinal	Fioricet
Dioval	Diovan	flavoxATE	fluvoxAMINE
Diovan	Dioval	Flonase	Flovent
Diovan	Zyban	Flovent	Flonase
Diovan	Darvon	flumazenil	influenza virus vaccine
Diprivan	Diffucan	FLUoxetine	PARoxetine
Diprivan	Ditropan	FLUoxetine	DULoxetine
disopyramide	desipramine	FLUoxetine	Loxitane
Ditropan	Diprivan	fluvoxAMINE	flavoxATE
DOBUTamine	DOPamine	Folex	Foltz
DOPamine	DOBUTamine	folic acid	folinic acid (leucovorin calcium)
Dorbax	Zovirax	folinic acid (leucovorin calcium)	folic acid
Doxil	Paxil	Foltz	Folex
DOXRubicin	DAUNORubicin	fomepizole	omeprazole
DOXRubicin	DOXRubicin liposomal	Foradil	Fortical
DOXRubicin	IDAnubicin	Foradil	Toradol
DOXRubicin liposomal	DOXRubicin	Fortical	Foradil
Dulcolax (bisacodyl)	Dulcolax (docusate sodium)	gentamicin	gentian violet
Dulcolax (docusate sodium)	Dulcolax (bisacodyl)	gentian violet	gentamicin
DULOxetine	FLUoxetine	glacial acetic acid	acetic acid for irrigation
Durasal	Durezol	glipiZIDE	glyBURIDE
Durezol	Durasal	glyBURIDE	glipiZIDE
Duricef	Ultracet	Granulex	Regranex
Dynacin	Dynacirc	guaifENesin	guanFACINE
Dynacirc	Dynacin	guaifACINE	guaifENesin
edetate calcium disodium	edetate disodium	HBIG (hepatitis B immune globulin)	BabyBIG
edetate disodium	edetate calcium disodium	Healon	Hyalgan
Effexor	Effexor XR	heparin	Hespan
Effexor XR	Effexor	Hespan	heparin
Enbrel	Levbid	HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors ("statins")	nystatin
Engerix-B adult	Engerix-B pediatric/adolescent	HumaLOG	HumuLIN
Engerix-B pediatric/adolescent	Engerix-B adult	HumaLOG	NovoLOG
Enjuvia	Januvia	HumaLOG Mix 75/25	HumuLIN 70/30
ePHEDrine	EPINEPHrine	Humapen Memoir (for use with HumaLOG)	Humira Pen
EPINEPHrine	ePHEDrine	Humira Pen	Humapen Memoir (for use with HumaLOG)
Estratest	Estratest HS	HumuLIN	NovoLIN
Estratest HS	Estratest	HumuLIN	HumaLOG
ethambutol	Ethmazine	HumuLIN 70/30	HumaLOG Mix 75/25
Ethmazine	ethambutol	Hyalgan	Healon
Evista	AVINza	hydrALAZINE	hydrOXYzine
factor IX complex, vapor heated	coagulation factor IX (recombinant)	HYDRocodone	oxyCODONE
Fanapt	Xanax	Hydrogesic	hydrOXYzine
Femara	Femhrt	HYDRomorphine	morphine

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End of NPSG Lesson