

CRITICAL Incident Learning

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

TALLMAN LETTERING

Our institution has found some additional drug names that we think would benefit from the use of TALLman lettering in order to avoid confusion and error in our institution. Would you consider adding these to your list?

TALLman lettering is only one of several risk mitigation strategies that can be used to differentiate look-alike, sound-alike (LASA) drug names. Complementary or alternative strategies should be considered before applying the technique. For a list of these strategies see [Principles for the Application of TALLman Lettering in Canada](#).

We believe that TALLman lettering should be limited to **high-alert** drug name pairs associated with a high risk to patient safety as overuse of the technique may reduce its effectiveness. TALLman lettering will have the greatest impact on the differentiation of LASA drug names if it is applied consistently locally, nationally and perhaps even internationally. We would suggest limiting the application of TALLman lettering to the high-alert drug name pairs on the ISMP Canada list of “TALLman Lettering for Look-Alike/Sound-Alike Drug Names in Canada”

If your organization would like to apply TALLman lettering to additional **high-alert** drug names that do not appear on this list, we would suggest using the TALLman options on the previously published FDA/ISMP (USA) lists. See <http://www.ismp.org/Tools/tallmanletters.pdf>.

If your organization has experienced mix-ups with drugs that are not on these lists, we would be grateful if you would report this through our incident reporting program, available at: https://www.ismp-canada.org/err_ipr.htm. **Reported incidents would be considered in any future revisions to the ISMP Canada TALLman list.**