

APPENDIX 8-1

COMMONLY CONFUSED MEDICATIONS

This is a list of drugs that are commonly confused with each other. The nurse should be familiar with these drugs. Some of these drugs have similar sounding names and are confused when oral orders or telephone orders are given. Some look alike when written out so they are often confused, especially when poor handwriting is involved. When you are not sure, always ask the doctor who prescribed it.

A list of commonly confused drugs because they sound alike or are spelled similarly is contained at the following U.S. Pharmacopia website:

<http://www.usp.org/hqi/practitionerPrograms/newsletters/qualityReview/qr792004-04-01.html>

Or to check drugs with similar sounding names, you may use the tool located at:

<http://www.usp.org/hqi/similarProducts/drugErrorFinderTool.html>