

Tall Letter Writing of generic cepHALOSPORine names

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What is Tall Letter Writing
 (also called Tall Man Letters)?

Emphasising parts of long similar words
 in order to enhance differentiation.

The **purpose** of using Tall Letter Writing
 is to **reduce medication errors**.

Generic names are replacing brand names,
 as patents are expiring.
 Cephalosporine generic names have large
 look-alike and sound-alike properties.

Computer scanning of labels and barcodes
 could 'eliminate' the similarities
 of medicine names and labels.

It will, however, probably take long time
 before human reading of labels is not an
 important element in medicine handling.

Oral (13 names)

cefaCLOR
 cefADROxil
 cefALEXin

cefaTRIZine
 cefCAPene
 cefDINir

ceFIXime
 cefPODOxime
 cefPROZil

cefRADIne
 cefTERam

ceftiBUTen
 cefUROXime

Parenteral (21 names)

cefalORIDin
 cefaLOTIN
 cefAMANDole

cefAPIRin
 ceFAZolin
 ceFEPlme

cefmENOXime
 cefMETAzole
 cefMINox

ceFONICide
 cefOPERAzone
 cefoTAXime

cefotETAN
 cefOXItin
 cefPIROme

cefRADIne
 cefSULOdin
 ceftAZIDime

ceftiZOXime
 cefTRIAxone
 cefUROXime

This recommendation is supported by
 Institute for **Safe Medication Practices**
 www.ismp.org

Factors affecting the recommendation

- Differentiation
- Short element – perceived in one glance
- Pronounceable
- Element containing the characteristics of the name
- The «ph-f» problem, and the 'e' at the end

Where should Tall Letter Writing be used?

- Labels
- Formularies and medicines lists
- SOPs (Standard Operational Procedures)
- Computer systems
- Articles and publications
- rINN?

Tall Letter Writing vs colour coding.

- Tall Letter Writing is human readable (not a code).
- Tall Letter Writing is based on elements (letters)
 that are available in 'all' systems.
- Colour nuances are difficult to reproduce.
- People percept colours differently,
 (colour blindness, different working light).
- Colours may change over time.

Small containers/vials

10ml vials have 8cm circumference
 Only one third (120°) visible – 2,67cm visible.

FDA Name Differentiation Project.

In 2001 Food and Drug Administration
 in USA recommended Tall Letter Writing
 for 1 single name and 16 name pairs.

aceta**HEX**AMIDE
 aceta**ZOL**AMIDE

bu**PROP**ion
 bus**PIR**one

chlorpro**PAM**IDE
 chlorpro**MAZ**INE

clomi**PHEN**E
 clomi**PRAM**INE

cyclo**SPOR**INE
 cyclo**SER**INE

DA**UNO**rubicin
 DO**XO**rubicin

diphenhydr**AM**INE
 dimenhy**DRIN**ATE

DO**BUT**amine
 DO**P**amine

glipi**ZID**E
 gly**BUR**IDE

hydr**ALAZ**INE
 hydr**OXY**zine

medroxy**PROG**ESTERone
 methyl**PREDN**ISolone

methyl**TESTO**STERone
 ni**CARD**ipine

N**IF**edipine

predni**SONE**
 predniso**LONE**

sulf**ADIAZ**INE
 sulfi**SOXAZO**LE

T**OLAZ**amide
 T**OLBU**Tamide

vin**BLAS**tine
 vin**CRIS**tine

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 Short WORDS that ARE well known, are perceived (READ) as images