



## Drug Name Confusion



The **MHRA** issued guidance<sup>1</sup> in April 2013 to raise awareness of medication errors resulting from patients being prescribed or supplied with the wrong medicine as a result of confusion between similarly named products. **The Mercaptamine / Mercaptopurine error has occurred recently in a practice within our CCGs.**

Drug name	Drug name	Description of drug actions
Mercaptamine	Mercaptopurine	Mercaptamine is indicated for the treatment of proven nephropathic cystinosis; Mercaptopurine is indicated for the treatment of acute leukaemia
Sulfadiazine	Sulfasalazine	Sulfadiazine is indicated for the prevention of rheumatic fever; Sulfasalazine is used to treat ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease & rheumatoid arthritis
Risperidone	Ropinirole	Risperidone is used in schizophrenia and other psychoses; Ropinirole is used in Parkinsonism and related disorders
Zuclopenthixol acetate	Zuclopenthixol decanoate	Zuclopenthixol acetate is used in schizophrenia and other psychoses; Zuclopenthixol decanoate is used in long-acting formulations for patients with schizophrenia in whom oral maintenance therapy is unreliable

### Some other drug names that look and sound alike<sup>2</sup>

Amiloride	Amlodipine	Imipramine	Trimipramine
Azithromycin	Erythromycin	Levothyroxine	Liothyronine
Beclometasone	Betamethasone	Loperamide	Lofepamine
Bisacodyl	Bisoprolol	Mebendazole	Metronidazole
Carbamazepine	Carbimazole	Methylprednisolone	Medroxyprogesterone
Chlorpromazine	Chlorpropamide	Olsalazine	Olanzapine
Clomifene	Clonidine	Penicillamine	Penicillin
Clotrimazole	Co-trimoxazole	Priadel	Parlodel
Depo Medrone	Depo Provera	Promazine	Promethazine
Dipyridamole	Disopyramide	Quinidine	Quinine
Dothiepin	Doxepin	Senokot	Seroxat
Fluoxetine	Fluvoxamine	Sandocal	Sando-K
Folic Acid	Folinic Acid	Trimeprazine	Trimipramine
Gliclazide	Glipizide	Vermox	Volmax
Hydroxyzine	Hydralazine	Vinblastine	Vincristine

- <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/recent-drug-name-confusion>
- <http://www.derbyhospitals.nhs.uk/primary/pharmacy/formulary/drug-names-that-look-sound-alike/>

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