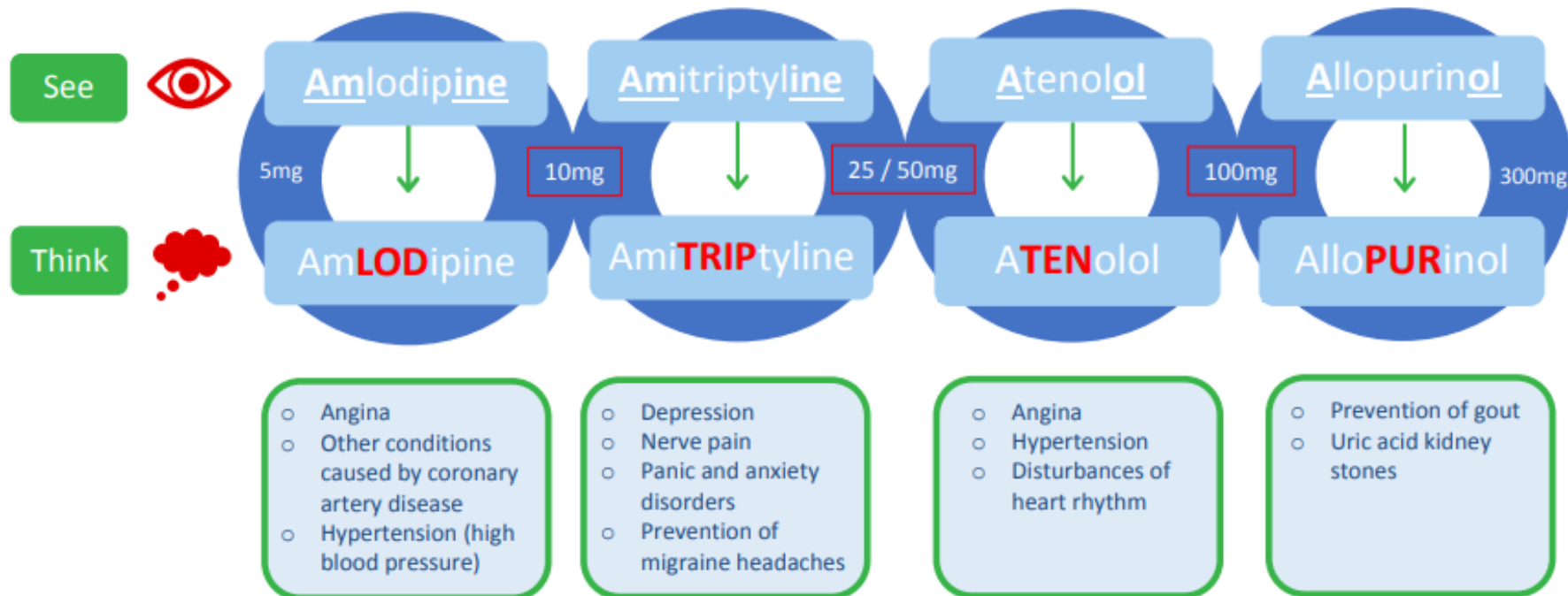


# LASA (Look-Alike, Sound-Alike) A-listers



Dispensing errors involving these drugs may cause serious harm to patients. Always triple check the **product name** and **strength**. Consider minimising selection error risks through: physical separation, visual warnings, shelf edgers, PMR prompts.



# proPRANoloL

Heart conditions & relief  
of situational anxiety



# prEDNISoloNE



Reduces inflammation in  
asthma & rheumatism

## Dispensing propranolol

- **Contra-indicated** for patients with some conditions (e.g. **asthma**)
- Taken **regularly** and continuously for cardiovascular conditions
- Taken **occasionally** for anxiety & migraine relief

## Dispensing prednisolone

- Doses **vary** depending on the condition (between 5mg and 60mg daily)
- Ensure dispensing labels have **clear directions**
- Provide **counselling** & additional material
- Give **'Steroid Card'** for regular treatments

**Check** for potential drug interactions

**Check** the strength & formulation

- ⚠️ If **propranolol** tablets are supplied in error, consequences include **bronchospasm** and a **fall in blood pressure** which can cause **fainting, coma** or even **death**.
- ⚠️ Rapid **withdrawal of high dose prednisolone** can be **dangerous**.
- ⚠️ Dispensing **prednisolone** in error can cause many unpleasant side effects.



**Carbamazepine** is used to treat **epilepsy**,

trigeminal neuralgia & bipolar disorder.

**Side effects:** nausea, vomiting, dizziness & allergic skin reactions.  
In adults, carbamazepine is usually started at **100mg/300mg** daily and the **dose is increased** until seizures stop or side effects occur.  
In adults, the average daily dose is 800-1200mg, but some people may need daily doses of 2000mg.

**Carbimazole** is used to treat an overactive thyroid gland (**hyperthyroidism**).

**Side effects:** headaches, sickness & joint pain.  
The initial dose is **15-40mg** for adults and is usually **750mcg/kg** for children under 11 and 30mg for 12-17 year olds.  
Once control is achieved, the **dose is reduced**.



**Think about the person behind the prescription**



**Carbamazepine** is broken down faster in **children**, so young children may require a larger dose than adults  
**Carbamazepine** can make hormonal methods of birth control less effective, increasing **risk of pregnancy**  
**Carbamazepine** can cause dizziness or blurry vision in **older people**, increasing the risk of falls



**Carbamazepine** and **Carbimazole** can cause **harm** to a developing foetus  
**Carbimazole** can **affect other medicines** such as some anticoagulants, steroids, antibiotics & beta-blockers



Take extra care when selecting look-alike, sound-alike (**LASA**) medicines, especially when stored in close proximity

Think  **carbamazEPINE & carbimazOLE**

**Check the dose:** **carbamazepine** is prescribed at a **much higher dose** compared to **carbimazole**.  
To control seizures, the dose of **carbamazepine** is **gradually increased**, whereas **carbimazole** is taken at a **gradually reduced** dose once the hyperthyroidism is under control.



## azAthioPRINE

immunosuppressant

- Available in **25mg** & **50mg** forms
- **High toxicity** - **regular monitoring** will be required during treatment
- Takes a long time to achieve desired effect; **28 or 56 day** supplies common
- Usually given **once or twice a day**



## azIthroMYCIN

antibiotic

- Available in **250mg** & **500mg** forms (capsules & tablets)
- Antibiotic prescriptions are usually issued for a **3-10 day** course  
! Think twice if you are dispensing **high quantities** !
- Usually taken **once a day**



**Serious harm** could occur if a patient receives the immunosuppressant azathioprine instead of the antibiotic azithromycin.



For children, liquids are available for both medicines.  
Always **double check** the medication in hand when talking to parents about the child's **condition**, **dose** and **duration of treatment**.



**Read** the whole **name** of the medicine carefully  
**Consider** whether the **dose prescribed** is reasonable  
**Check** – does the patient have a **clear indication** for the medicine prescribed?




# ATENOLOL



Atenolol belongs to a group of drugs called **beta-blockers**  
Beta-blockers affect the heart and circulation (blood flow through arteries and veins)  
Atenolol is used to treat **angina** (chest pain) and **hypertension** (high blood pressure)  
Lowering high blood pressure helps to **prevent strokes, heart attacks and kidney problems**



Most doses start at **25mg to 50mg** once daily  
**Maximum** licensed daily dose is **100mg**  
**Side effects include:** dizziness, lowered blood pressure (hypotension), cold hands and feet, leg pain and fatigue

Think  **aTENolol** 100mg tablets  
**alloPURinol** 100mg tablets



Take extra care when selecting look-alike, sound-alike (**LASA**) medicines with similar names, especially when stored in close proximity, e.g. **allopurinol**

Consider minimising selection error risks through:  
physical **separation**, visual warnings, shelf **stickers** & PMR **prompts**

If atenolol is supplied in error to a patient with normal blood pressure, it could cause **loss of consciousness**, with increased **risk of a fall**. Think about the person behind every prescription – in frail or elderly patients this error could **cause severe harm or death**.



# Quetiapine vs Quinine



**Quetiapine** is used for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, often first diagnosed in young adulthood.

The **initial dose is low**, so be aware of someone on a dose of 200mg or 300mg who has not had this previously.

**Quinine** is used for night time cramps, usually a problem associated with older people. It is taken at a dose of one 200mg or 300mg tablet at night.



If a person takes a 200mg or 300mg dose of **quetiapine** in error, the effects are likely to be serious:

- Stroke-like symptoms (e.g. affecting speech and movement)
- Drowsiness (leading to falls in the elderly)
- Seizures

Use the **patient's age** to think about the **person behind every prescription**  
Consider minimising selection error risk through physical separation e.g. by moving quetiapine to 'Z' in your dispensary



# Rosuvastatin & Rivaroxaban

A build up of cholesterol causes a partial blockage of blood vessels so that blood flow is reduced.

**Rosuvastatin** is used to **reduce high cholesterol**.

Rosuvastatin helps to reduce the risk of having a heart attack, a stroke, or related health problems.



Blood needs to be at the right viscosity to flow steadily through the body. Blood clots formed too readily may cause blockages. Blockages could occur in the veins of the legs, in the lungs or in the brain, where they might cause a stroke.

**Rivaroxaban** is an **anticoagulant** used to **prevent blood clots** and doses should not be missed.

Rivaroxaban is used at **various doses** for different conditions and it could cause bleeding if the dose is too high or if too much is taken.

Take extra care when selecting look-alike, sound-alike (**LASA**) medicines with similar names, especially when stored in close proximity.

Consider minimising selection error risks through: physical separation, vision warnings, shelf stickers and PMR prompts.



