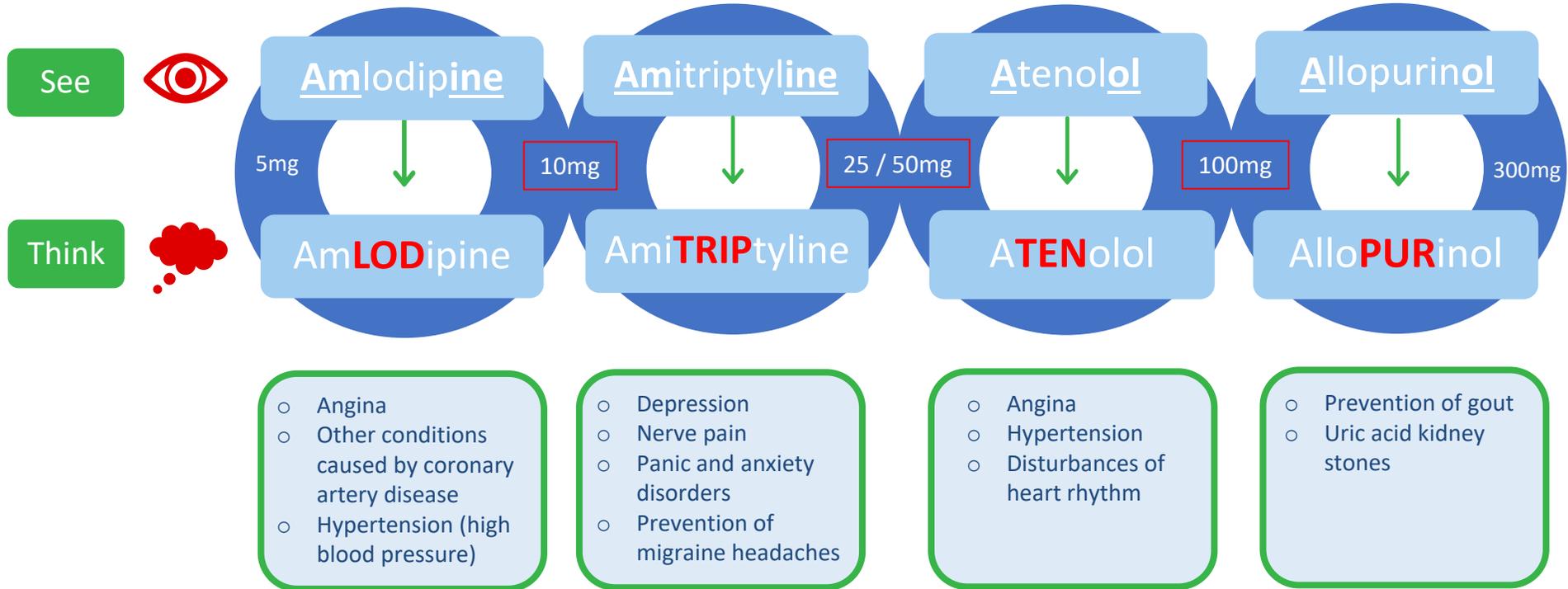


# LASA (Look-Alike, Sound-Alike) A-listers



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.

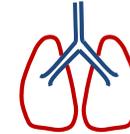


# proPRANoloL

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** i.e. multiple times a day 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 **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 have cause dizziness or blurry vision in the **elderly**, 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**



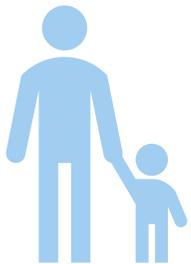
# azIthroMYCIN

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

