Medical Safety Information
Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

No. 51 September 2017

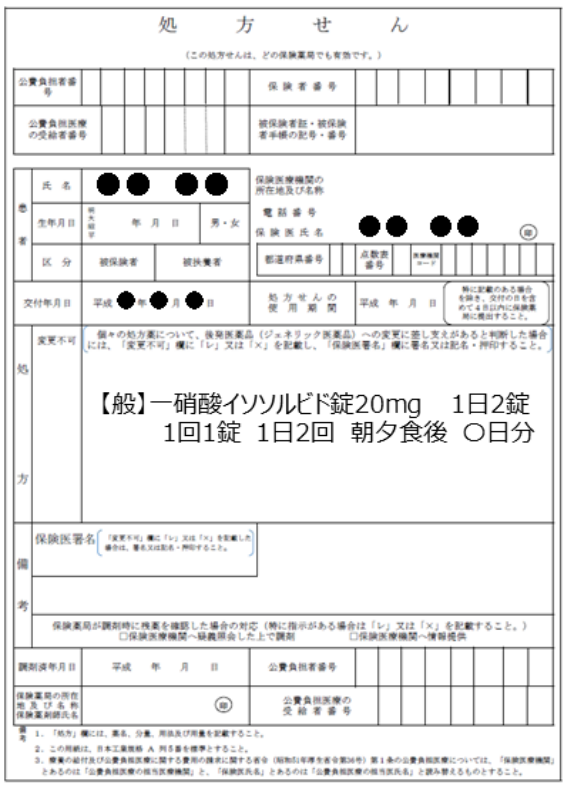
Mix-up of Drugs Due to Similarity of Nonproprietary Names

POINT Key points for safe use

(Case) When an insurance pharmacy received a nonproprietary name prescription for “isosorbide mononitrate tablets 20 mg”, the pharmacist misread the drug name and considered the prescription for “isosorbide dinitrate tablets 20 mg”, and dispensed FRANDOL Tablets instead of ITOROL Tablets that should have been dispensed.

1 Drugs with similar nonproprietary names

- **Pharmacists need to understand that some drugs have similar nonproprietary names and exercise particular caution when dispensing them.**


処　方　せ　ん

（この処方せんは、どの保険薬局でも有効です。）

公費負担者番号 / 保険者番号 / 公費負担医療の受給者番号 / 被保険者証・被保険者手帳の記号・番号

患者 氏名 / 生年月日 明・大・昭 年 月 日 男・女 / 区分 被保険者 被扶養者

保険医療機関の所在地及び名称 / 電話番号 / 保険医氏名 ●● ●● ㊞

都道府県番号 / 点数表番号 / 医療機関コード

交付年月日 平成 ●年●月●日 / 処方せんの使用期間 平成 年 月 日

特に記載のある場合を除き、交付の日を含めて4日以内に保険薬局に提出すること。

処方 変更不可 個々の処方薬について、後発医薬品（ジェネリック医薬品）への変更に差し支えがあると判断した場合には、「変更不可」欄に「レ」又は「×」を記載し、「保険医署名」欄に署名又は記名・押印すること。

【般】一硝酸イソソルビド錠20mg　1日2錠
1回1錠　1日2回　朝夕食後　○日分

備考 保険医署名 「変更不可」欄に「レ」又は「×」を記載した場合は、署名又は記名・押印すること。

保険薬局が調剤時に残薬を確認した場合の対応（特に指示がある場合は「レ」又は「×」を記載すること。）
□保険医療機関へ疑義照会した上で調剤　□保険医療機関へ情報提供

調剤済年月日 平成 年 月 日 / 公費負担者番号 / 保険薬局の所在地及び名称 保険薬剤師氏名 ㊞ / 公費負担医療の受給者番号

備考
1．「処方」欄には、薬名、分量、用法及び用量を記載すること。
2．この用紙は、日本工業規格 A 列5番を標準とすること。
3．療養の給付及び公費負担医療に関する費用の請求に関する省令（昭和51年厚生省令第34号）第1条の公費負担医療については、「保険医療機関」とあるのは「公費負担医療の担当医療機関」と、「保険医氏名」とあるのは「公費負担医療の担当医氏名」と読み替えるものとすること。

List of mix-up incidents in nonproprietary name prescription

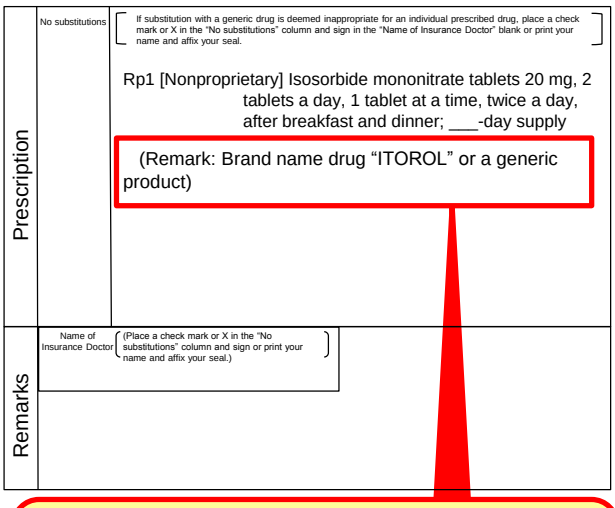
Nonproprietary name	Brand name (original drug)
Isosorbide mononitrate(一硝酸イソソルビド) Isosorbide dinitrate(硝酸イソソルビド)	Itorol Frandol
Arotinolol hydrochloride (アロチノロール塩酸塩) Atenolol (アテノロール)	Arotinolol hydrochloride [DSP] Tenormin
Estazolam (エスタゾラム) Etizolam (エチゾラム)	Eurodin Depas
Cefcapene pivoxil hydrochloride (セフカペンピボキシル塩酸塩) Cefditoren pivoxil (セフジトレンピボキシル) Cefdinir (セフジニル) Cefpodoxime proxetil (セフポドキシムプロキセチル)	Flomox Meiact Cefzon Banan
Nicergoline (ニセルゴリン) Nicorandil (ニコランジル)	Sermion Sigmart
Nisoldipine (ニソルジピン) Nilvadipine (ニルバジピン)	Baymycard Nivadil
Fluvastatin (フルバスタチン) Pravastatin sodium (プラバスタチンNa)	Lochol Mevalotin
Clobetasol propionate (クロベタゾールプロピオン酸エステル) Clobetasone butyrate (クロベタゾン酪酸エステル)	Dermovate Kindavate
Betamethasone dipropionate (ベタメタゾンジプロピオン酸エステル) Betamethasone butyrate propionate (ベタメタゾン酪酸プロピオン酸エステル)	Rinderon-DP Antebate
Ranitidine (ラニチジン) Lafutidine (ラフチジン)	Zantac Protecadin
Ethyl loflazepate (ロフラゼプ酸エチル) Lorazepam (ロラゼパム)	Meilax Wypax

Nonproprietary name (nonproprietary prescription master name)	Brand name (original drug)
Salazosulfapyridine **Tablets** Salazosulfapyridine **Enteric-coated Tablets**	Salazopyrin Azulfidine EN
Theophylline Sustained-release Tablets **(12-hour to 24-hour duration)** Theophylline Sustained-release Tablets **(24-hour duration)**	Theodur Uniphyl LA, Unicon
Nifedipine Sustained-release Tablets **(12-hour duration)** Nifedipine Sustained-release Tablets **(24-hour duration)**	Adalat L Adalat CR

There have been many other kinds of drug mix-up incidents.
Let's avoid dispensing errors by learning and sharing the nonproprietary drug names that are often confused.

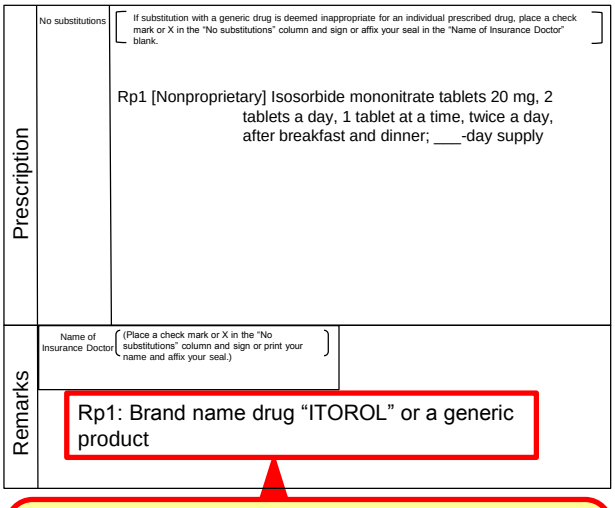
2 Preventive measures against drug mix-up in nonproprietary name prescription

Example of prescription writing (1)



In the Prescription column for each nonproprietary name prescription, write the original drug name or the typical generic product as a remark.

Example of prescription writing (2)



In the Remarks column, write the original drug name or the typical generic product.

A brand name or a typical generic product can be added for reference **if the nonproprietary name is such that there is particular concern over the risk of a mix-up.**
Even in this case, the premium for nonproprietary name prescriptions is available. However, since the product name shown together with the nonproprietary name is reference information on the prescribed drug, it is necessary to take measures to avoid the misunderstanding that it is to specify dispensing of a particular product.
Please cooperate with the prescribing medical institution to prevent dispensing errors.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) issued administrative notices related to PMDA Medical Safety Information No. 51.

● Administrative Notice by the General Affairs Division, Health Policy Bureau; General Affairs Division, Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau; and Safety Division, Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, dated May 26, 2017
Summary of results of "Research on the Penetration of Standardized Prescription Format of Oral Drugs" funded by Health and Labour Sciences Research Grants Fiscal year (FY) 2015 (Research Project for Development of Community Medicine Infrastructures) (provision of information)

● Administrative Notice by the Medical Economics Division, Health Insurance Bureau, dated May 26, 2017
"Submission of Clarifications to Inquiries (No. 11)"

About this information

* PMDA Medical Safety Information is issued by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency for the purpose of providing healthcare providers with clearer information from the perspective of promoting the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The information presented here has been compiled, with the assistance of expert advice, from cases collected as Medical Accident Information Reports by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, and collected as Adverse Drug Reaction and Malfunction Reports in accordance with the Law on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices.
* We have tried to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of its compilation but do not guarantee its accuracy in the future.
* This information is not intended to impose constraints on the discretion of healthcare professionals or to impose obligations and responsibility on them, but is provided as a support to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare professionals.

Access to the most up to date safety information is available via PMDA medi-navi.

Published by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

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http://www.pmda.go.jp/english/index.html