NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (NNAMHS) POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: LOOK – ALIKE SOUND - ALIKE MEDICATIONS		
NUMBER:	NN-MM-39	Page 1 of 2
ORIGINAL DATE: 11/18/10		
REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 10/17/13		
	.:Cody L. Phinney	
I.	PURPOSE To reduce medication errors and promote consumer safety by establishing guidelines to avoid look-alike/sound-alike medication errors.	
II.	POLICY NNAMHS will compile and post a list of look-al	like/sound-alike medications.
III.	REFERENCES 1. The Joint Commission Comprehensive Acc Hospitals, Medication Management Chapte	

IV. PROCEDURES

- The pharmacy will review the list of lookalike/sound-alike medications annually, with suggestions to supplement the list when appropriate.
- 2. Medication errors will be monitored to determine a need to add to the look-alike/sound-alike list. Errors shall be reported to the Pharmacy &Therapeutic Committee monthly.
- 3. The confusion potential for look-alike/sound-alike medications will be considered when adding a new product to the formulary.
- 4. Medication bins in the pharmacy and floor stock areas of the hospital that contain look-alike/sound-alike medication will be flagged by using a shelf sticker.
- 5. Staff will be alerted regarding look-alike/sound-alike medications by signage posted throughout the pharmacy and consumer care areas. Such signage will be distributed by the pharmacy annually or whenever changes occur.
- Reporting potentially hazardous conditions with look-alike/sound alike medications is strongly encouraged.
- 7. Reporting errors involving look-alike/sound-alike medications is mandatory.