


## LOOK-ALIKE/SOUND-ALIKE DRUG NAME ALERT

			
Therapeutic Class	Antispasmodic (anticholinergic)	Proton pump inhibitor	Antidepressant

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. would like to alert health care professionals that prescriptions for <sup>Pr</sup>TROSEC<sup>®</sup> (trospium chloride), a drug approved in Canada on January 10, 2006 for the treatment of overactive bladder, could potentially be confused with those for <sup>Pr</sup>LOSEC<sup>®</sup> and/or <sup>Pr</sup>PROZAC<sup>®</sup>.

The physician and pharmacist roles in avoiding errors are critical. Your assistance in writing, verifying and dispensing accurate prescriptions is requested. The following are some suggestions that will help reduce or eliminate the potential for medication errors due to Look-Alike/Sound-Alike (LA/SA) drug names:

### **PRESCRIBERS**

1. write prescriptions clearly by printing the name of the product in block letters or using electronic prescriptions; avoid using abbreviations;
2. include more information about the product (i.e., include brand name and generic name, reason for prescribing the medication);
3. ensure the strength, dosage and directions for use are clearly indicated on the prescription;
4. ensure the patient (or family member) understands the reason the medication has been prescribed and verify that the patient can read the prescription;
5. spell the name of the drug when giving verbal prescription orders.

### **PHARMACISTS**

1. keep LA/SA health products separated from one another;
2. create a warning system for staff to notify them of potential LA/SA health products (i.e., computer alerts, warnings on stock bottles);
3. verify the name of the drug in written and verbal prescriptions;
4. contact the doctor if there are questions or if clarification is needed regarding the prescription;
5. confirm with the patient the reason they are taking the health product;
6. become familiar with LA/SA health products

Please contact Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. medical information at 1 (866) 260-6291, should you have further questions.

<sup>Pr</sup>Trosec<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. Mississauga, ON.

<sup>Pr</sup>LOSEC<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of AstraZeneca AB; <sup>Pr</sup>PROZAC<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Eli Lilly and Company USA.