

Dose Designations and Other Information	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
Trailing zero after decimal point (e.g., 1.0 mg)**	1 mg	Mistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen	Do not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers
“Naked” decimal point (e.g., .5 mg)**	0.5 mg	Mistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seen	Use zero before a decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unit
Abbreviations such as mg. or mL. with a period following the abbreviation	mg mL	The period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorly	Use mg, mL, etc. without a terminal period

<p>Drug name and dose run together (especially problematic for drug names that end in "l" such as Inderal40 mg; Tegretol300 mg)</p>	<p>Inderal 40 mg Tegretol 300 mg</p>	<p>Mistaken as Inderal 140 mg Mistaken as Tegretol 1300 mg</p>	<p>Place adequate space between the drug name, dose, and unit of measure</p>
<p>Numerical dose and unit of measure run together (e.g., 10mg, 100mL)</p>	<p>10 mg 100 mL</p>	<p>The "m" is sometimes mistaken as a zero or two zeros, risking a 10- to 100-fold overdose</p>	<p>Place adequate space between the dose and unit of measure</p>

Drug Name Abbreviations	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
<p>Large doses without properly placed commas (e.g., 100000 units; 1000000 units)</p>	<p>100,000 units 1,000,000 units</p>	<p>100000 has been mistaken as 10,000 or 1,000,000; 1000000 has been mistaken as 100,000</p>	<p>Use commas for dosing units at or above 1,000, or use words such as 100 "thousand" or 1 "million" to improve readability</p>
<p>To avoid confusion, do not abbreviate drug names when communicating medical information. Examples of drug name abbreviations involved in medication errors include:</p>			
<p>APAP</p>	<p>acetaminophen</p>	<p>Not recognized as acetaminophen</p>	<p>Use complete drug name</p>