

CLINICAL UPDATE

A Publication Compiled by the Clinical Pharmacy Team of



Health Solutions

PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT

PREVENTING MEDICATION ERRORS

April 2006

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has notified pharmacists about medication errors involving LAMICTAL® (lamotrigine). Other medications involved in these errors include: Lamisil®, lamivudine, Ludiomil®, labetalol and Lomotil®. GSK offers the following tips to help prevent these errors from occurring:

- Separate drugs with similar names on the shelf.
- Confirm the brand name prescribed with the physician.
- Remind the patient of the brand name, generic name and indication.
- Alert patients to check their medications and promptly bring any questions/concerns to the pharmacist's or doctor's attention.
- Provide counseling on how to use the medication.

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Reliant Pharmaceuticals Inc. has been made aware of instances where telephone orders for prescriptions of **Omacor**® (omega-3-acid ethyl esters) Capsules have been misunderstood as **Amicar**® (aminocaproic acid) Tablets. To help avoid errors, pharmacists have been advised to clarify any oral and/or written order for these 2 products. For example, verify the generic name along with the trade name with the physician, ask the prescriber to spell the drug name or state the medication's indication, and/or match the indication with the patient's diagnosis.