

Read this important information before administering:

COMPOUND DRUGS



There are many drugs available to treat disease or use in pain control called *compound drugs*. Compound drugs are two or more drugs combined to achieve the desired results. It is important for you to understand how to read orders for compound drugs that come in a pill or capsule form. Here are two examples of common compound drugs:

HTCZ (triamterene-hydrochlorothiazide) 75–50 mg, also known as Dyazide or Maxzide. This is a compound drug that acts as a diuretic (water pill) and reduces blood pressure. The strength of the pill is 75–50 mg. These numbers tell the strength of each drug:

- First number is for triamterene (**75 mg**)
- Second number is for hydrochlorothiazide (**50 mg**)

Narco (hydrocodone with acetaminophen) 7.5/325 mg is another common compound drug that combines two pain medications. The strength of the pill is 7.5/325 mg. These numbers tell the strength of each drug:

- First number is for hydrocodone (**7.5 mg**)
- Second number is for acetaminophen (**325 mg**)

Medication errors occasionally occur when administering compound drugs. The person administering the medication tries to give too many pills. For example; trying to give 75 pills of the HTCZ **75–50 mg** or trying to give 7.5 pills of the Narco **7.5/325 mg**.

This type of error can occur for one of the following reasons:

- The order from the prescriber does not list the number of tablets to be given.
- There was a transcribing error on the Medication Administration Record (MAR).
- The person administering the medication misread the order and thought they needed to give more than one tablet.

You must contact the prescriber immediately any time a medication order is not clear or the number of tablets is not specified and have the order clarified in writing.

You may also contact the pharmacy that dispensed the medication for additional information on compound drugs.

For additional information on safe medication practices go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/DHS-SafeMeds>

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Publications and Design Section at 503-378-3486, 711 for TTY, or email DHS-OHA.PublicationRequest@dhsosha.state.or.us. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.