



NATIONAL PBM BULLETIN

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE GROUP,
MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL, AND
CENTER FOR MEDICATION SAFETY PSCI (VA MEDSAFE)

LOOK-ALIKE SAFETY ALERT REGARDING FLUARIX® AND TWINRIX®

I. ISSUE

FLUARIX® is an influenza virus vaccine used for prophylaxis manufactured by Glaxo Smith Kline (Figure 1). TWINRIX® is a hepatitis A inactivated and hepatitis B recombinant vaccine used for prophylaxis that is also manufactured by Glaxo Smith Kline (Figure 2). Both products utilize the Tip-Lok technology, which consists of single-dose, pre-filled, pre-labeled syringes. The plastic and cellophane packagings used on these two products are identical. One difference between their appearance lies in that Twinrix® has a blue band at the bottom of the syringe, while Fluarix® does not.

II. VA MEDSAFE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Staff must be informed of potential look-alike confusion between FLUARIX® and TWINRIX®.
2. Pharmacy must store FLUARIX® and TWINRIX® in separate areas in the pharmacy.
3. Pharmacy must create a warning system for staff to notify of potential look-alike confusion between FLUARIX® and TWINRIX® (i.e., computer alerts during the ordering/verifying process and/or warning stickers on packaging).
4. Drug/syringe used must be verified with the name of the drug on the prescription.

III. SOURCE

VISN 8 Safety Alert Report.

Figure1. FLUARIX®



Figure 2. TWINRIX®

