

# Patient Safety Alert

## Veterans Health Administration Warning System Published by VA Central Office

AL09-19

April 3, 2009

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- Item:** CPRS – Changing Medication Schedule may Leave Incorrect Medication Administration Times
- Specific Incidents:** A medication had a defaulted schedule of QID (four times a day), with administration times of 9am, 1pm, 5pm and 9pm (0900, 1300, 1700 and 2100). When the CPRS user typed BID (twice a day) to change the schedule and then pressed the <Enter> key, the four QID administration times remained stored with the order, instead of only the two BID administration times of 9am and 5pm (0900 and 1700). (See Attachment 1). This problem has existed in prior versions of CPRS and was reported at a VAMC. This problem may lead to underdosing or overdosing of medications. We are not aware of any patient harm at this time.
- General Information:** Within VistA Inpatient Medications software, facilities may establish a default schedule for particular medications. This provides the ability for CPRS to present the clinical user with a preselected medication schedule. If the CPRS user changes the medication schedule by **TYPING** a different schedule and presses the <Enter> key, the administration times associated with the schedule may be incorrectly assigned to the medication order. (See Attachment 2).
- Actions:**
1. By close of business (COB) April 6, 2009, the Facility Director shall ensure that all CPRS users and Pharmacy staff are aware of this Patient Safety Alert.
  2. By COB April 6, 2009, CPRS users that are changing the medication schedule shall select the new schedule from the defined list. (See Attachment 3)
  3. By COB April 6, 2009, Pharmacy staff while finishing a medication order shall ensure the number of “Admin Times” correlate to the intended “Schedule” when the message **“PLEASE NOTE: This order’s admin times (xxxx) do not match the ward times (yy) for this administration schedule (zzz)”** is displayed, Pharmacy staff shall use the “Shift 6” (i.e. “^”) key to abort processing and edit the order appropriately. (See Attachment 4)

4. By COB April 6, 2009, the Patient Safety Manager shall document the status of this Patient Safety Alert on the VHA Hazardous Recalls/Alerts website.

<http://vaww.nbc.med.va.gov/visn/recalls/index.cfm>

**Additional Information:** An updated CPRS version, expected release June 2009, will prevent saving a medication order if the schedule has not been selected from the defined list. An Inpatient Pharmacy Patch PSJ\*5\*113 will provide additional medication schedule validation. The estimated release date for PSJ\*5\*113 is not yet determined.

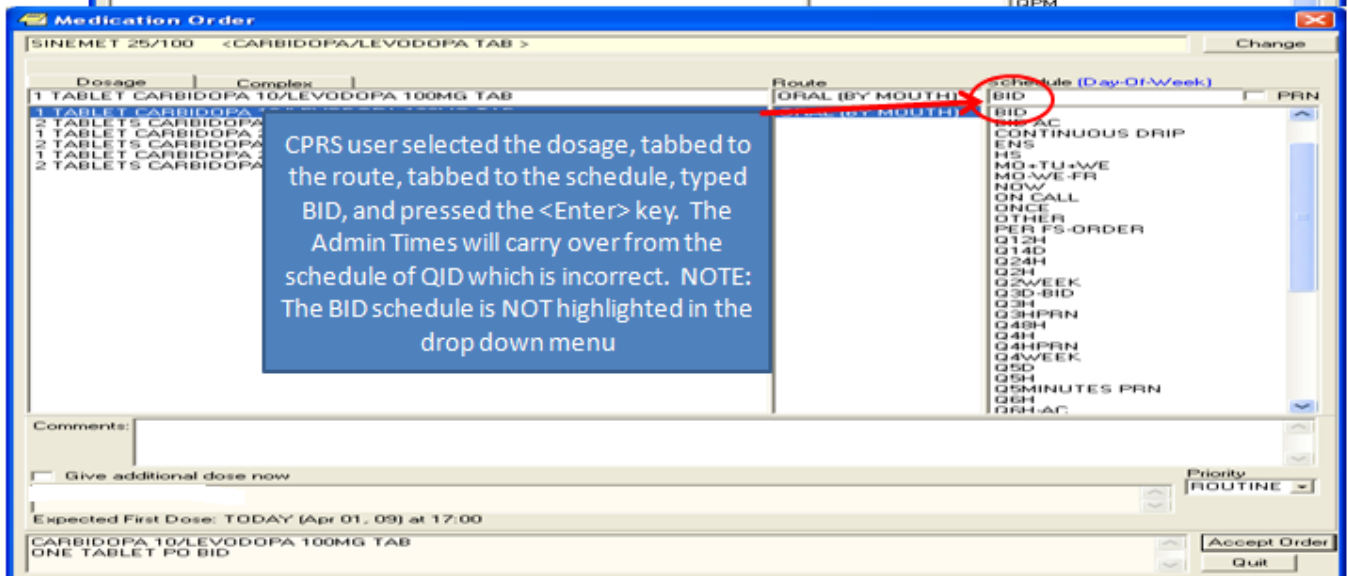
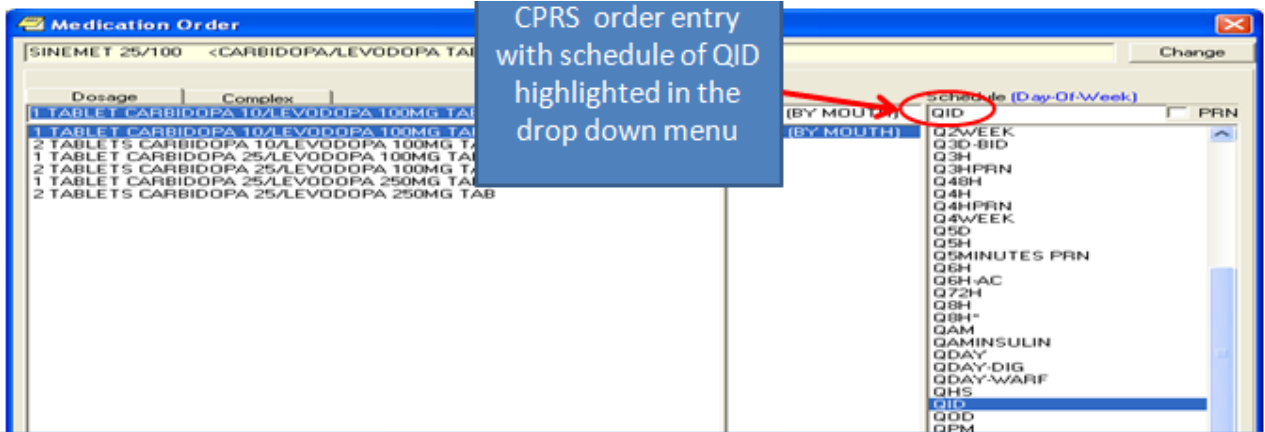
**Source:** Multiple VA medical facilities

**Attachments:**

- 1) Incorrect CPRS Inpatient Medication Administration Times Order Schedule Selection
- 2) Detailed display illustrating incorrect administration times assigned to a CPRS Inpatient Medication Order
- 3) Correct CPRS Inpatient Medication Schedule Selection
- 4) Inpatient Pharmacy Finishing Notification

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### ATTACHMENT 1: Incorrect CPRS Inpatient Medication Administration Times Order Schedule Selection



**ATTACHMENT 2: Detailed display illustrating incorrect administration times assigned to a CPRS Inpatient Medication Order**

**Order Details - 27952:1**

CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB  
ONE TABLET PO BID

Activity:  
03/26/2009 10:39 New Order entered by PROVIDER,ONE (Scholar Extraor)  
Order Text: CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB  
ONE TABLET PO BID  
Nature of Order: ELECTRONICALLY ENTERED  
Elec Signature: PROVIDER,ONE (Scholar Extraor) on

Current Data:  
Current Primary Provider: PROVIDER,ONE  
Current Attending Physician: PROVIDER,ONE  
Treating Specialty: GENERAL SURGERY  
Ordering Location: 3 NORTH SURG  
Start Date/Time: 03/26/2009 17:00  
Stop Date/Time:  
Current Status: PENDING  
Orders that have been placed but not yet accepted by the pharmacy are pending filling the order. e.g., Pharmacy orders awaiting verification, Lab orders awaiting collection.  
Order #27952

Order:  
Medication: CARBIDOPA/LEVODOPA TAB  
Dispense Drug: CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB  
Instructions: 1 TABLET CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB ORAL (BY MOUTH) BID

Text:  
ONE TABLET PO BID  
Priority: ROUTINE  
Comments:

Dispense Drugs (units/dose): CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB (1)  
Total Dose: 1 TABLET  
Schedule Type: CONTINUOUS  
Administration Times: 09-13-17-21

First Party Pay Exemptions

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MEDICATION HISTORY for FEB 24, 2009 to MAR 26, 2009 Run Date: MAR 26, 2009 10:4  
Page: 4  
MEDITATIONS SEARCH LIST: CARBIDOPA/LEVODOPA

**ATTACHMENT 3: Correct CPRS Inpatient Medication Schedule Selection**

**Medication Order**

SINEMET 25/100 <CARBIDOPA/LEVODOPA TAB > Change

Dosage	Complex	Route	Schedule (Day-Of-Week)	PRN
1 TABLET CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB		ORAL (BY MOUTH)	BID	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 TABLET CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB		ORAL (BY MOUTH)	BID	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 TABLETS CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB			BID AC	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 TABLET CARBIDOPA 25/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB			CONTINUOUS DRIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 TABLETS CARBIDOPA 25/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB			ENS	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 TABLET CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB			HS	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 TABLETS CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB			MO+TU+WE	<input type="checkbox"/>
			MO-WE-FR	<input type="checkbox"/>
			NOW	<input type="checkbox"/>
			ON CALL	<input type="checkbox"/>
			ONCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
			OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>
			PER FS-ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Q12H	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Q14D	<input type="checkbox"/>

**CPRS users are advised that when changing the medication schedule, the new schedule must be selected from the defined drop down list.**

Comments:

Give additional dose now

Admin. Time: 09-17

Expected First Dose: TODAY (Apr 03, 09) at 17:00

CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB  
ONE TABLET PO BID

Priority: ROUTINE

Accept Order  
Quit

**ATTACHMENT 4: Inpatient Pharmacy Finishing Notification**

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vistacrprtraining.r2w - Reflection for UNIX and OpenVMS
File Edit Connection Setup Macro Window Help

Instructions: 1 TABLET
*(2) Dosage Ordered: 1 TABLET
      Duration:                               (3) Start: 03/25/09 14:57
*(4)   Med Route: ORAL (BY MOUTH)             REQUESTED START: 03/25/09 17:00
                                             (5) Stop: 04/08/09 14:57

(6) Schedule Type: CONTINUOUS
*(8)   Schedule: BID
(9)   Admin Times: 09-13-17-21
*(10)  Provider: PROVIDER, ONE [es]
(11) Special Instructions:

(12) Dispense Drug                               U/D       Inactive Date
-----
      CARBIDOPA 10/LEVODOPA 100MG TAB             1

+ Enter ?? for more actions
BY Bypass          FL Flag
DC Discontinue     FN Finish
Select Item(s): Next Screen// FN Finish

PLEASE NOTE: This order's admin times (09-13-17-21)
              do not match the ward times (09-17)
              for this administration schedule (BID)

Press Return to continue... █

1132, 28      VTS00-7 -- 10.1.19.122 via TELNET
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Pharmacy staff will "Shift 6" (^) then press ENTER to abort processing and then edit the "Admin Times" to correlate with the "Schedule"