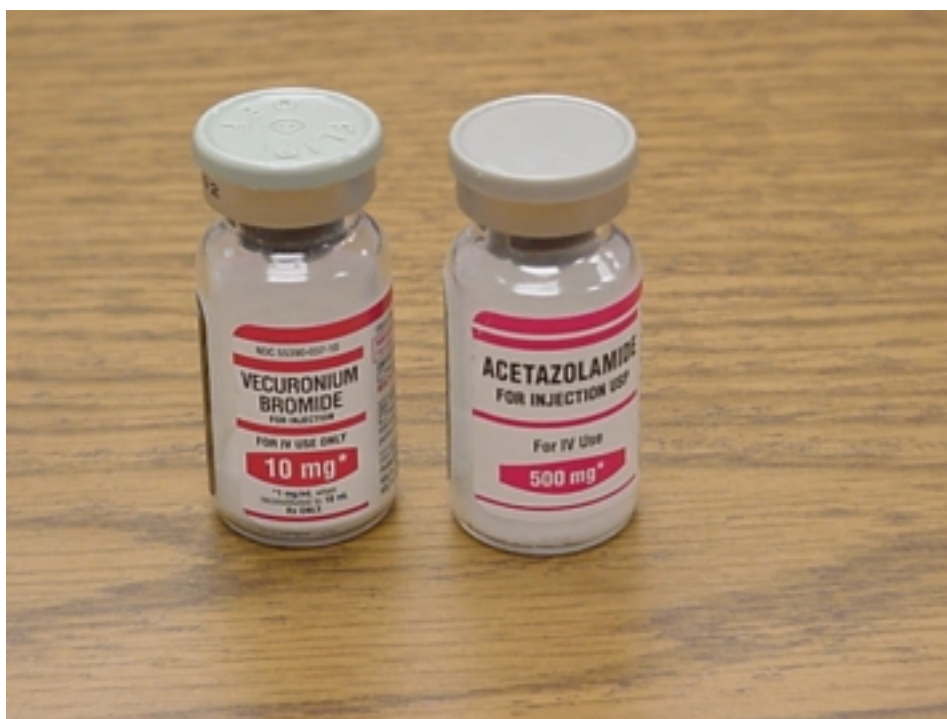


HAZARD WARNING!

Please determine immediately if your hospital has purchased vials of Bedford Laboratories' (a division of Ben Venue Laboratories, a Boehringer Ingelheim company) vecuronium injection 10 mg/10 mL or acetazolamide injection 500 mg/10 mL. Side-by-side, these products look dangerously similar, and since one product is a neuromuscular blocking agent, a mix-up could prove fatal. Both 10 mL vials have labels that are red and white with black text. Both vials also have light gray caps covering an aluminum ferrule. A hospital pharmacist just reported finding a vecuronium vial in the acetazolamide vial storage bin in his satellite pharmacy, even though they were supposed to be stored in discrete locations, far apart from each other. Another warning is warranted for look-alike vials of azathioprine and inamrinone, also from Bedford Laboratories. A hospital reported a near miss due to the similar appearance of each product's blue and white labels. Also, both drugs are packaged in 100 mg, 20 mL vials, and after reconstitution, azathioprine is a yellow solution, similar to inamrinone. A pharmacy technician was preparing a dose of azathioprine and picked up an opened vial on the counter that had been left over after preparation of an inamrinone bolus. The error was discovered before the drug was dispensed. Color photographs of the vial pairs appear below. We've contacted Bedford Laboratories about the label similarities. For now, hospitals and group purchasing organizations should seek an alternate vendor for one of these products in each pair of look-alike vials.

Pictures of Bedford Laboratories products



Picture 1. Vecuronium injection and acetazolamide injection.



Picture 2 Azathioprine injection and inamrinone injection