

TO: EZIZ Users
FROM: CDPH
SUBJECT: Vial mix-up alert - generic methylergonovine vs. hepatitis B vaccine
DATE: December 28, 2012

The California Department of Public Health is issuing the following advisory message.

The vial for generic formulation (American Regent) of methylergonovine maleate, used for the prevention and control of maternal postpartum hemorrhage, looks like the vial for Engerix-B (GlaxoSmithKline), a formulation of Hepatitis B vaccine that can be given to newborn infants. Because of the close resemblance, in at least a few instances methylergonovine maleate has been inadvertently administered to a newborns instead of hepatitis B vaccine or other intended injections.



Image courtesy of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices

For more information about avoiding such potentially hazardous mix-ups, please see <http://www.ismp.org/newsletters/nursing/issues/NurseAdviseERR201212.pdf>
<http://www.americanregent.com/documents/news/6tuNxatD2c=.pdf>
http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2012/006035s078lbl.pdf