

# MAXIMIZING MEDICATION FAVORITES

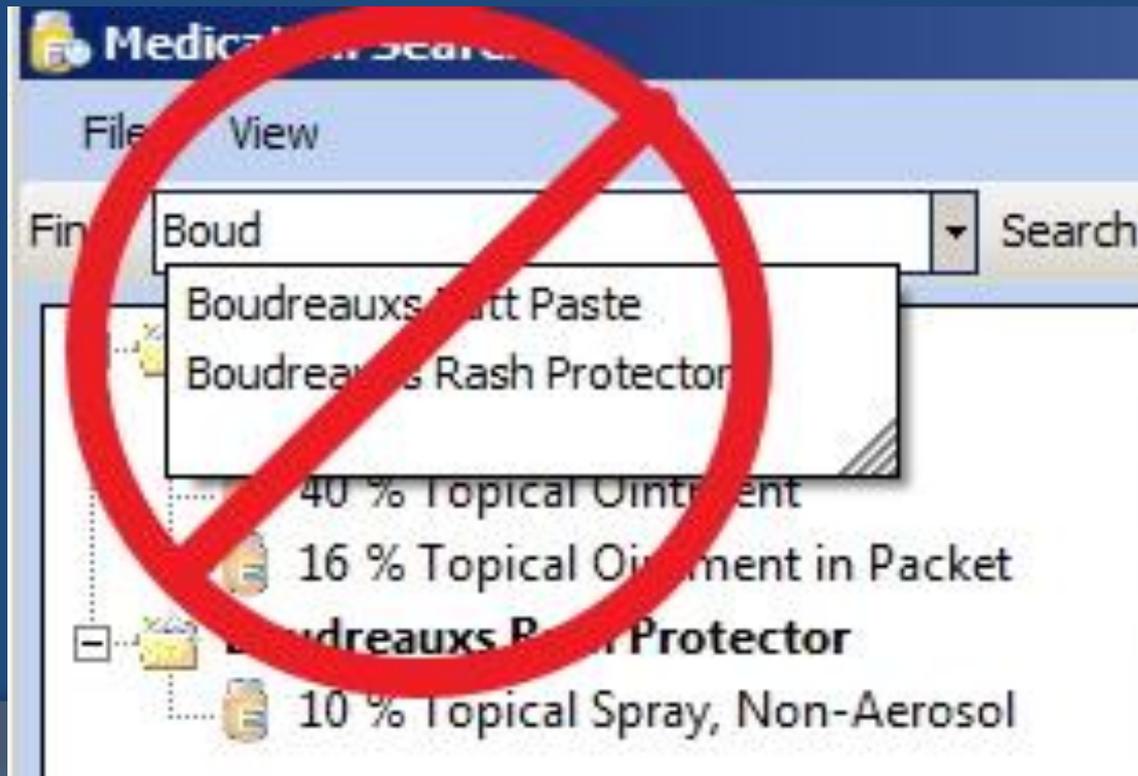


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# Medication Favorites

## Why would anyone NOT create Favorites?

- I don't have time for that.
  - Every med search is lost time.
  - It doesn't cost you any more time to set up a Favorite than it does to prescribe it for one patient—then you'll NEVER HAVE TO SEARCH FOR OR TYPE IT AGAIN!



# Medication Favorites

## Why would anyone NOT create Favorites?

- It's too much work to organize all those tabs.
  - Well, just do ONE tab. Then use the "jump" function on the All Tab to find your meds. Eventually you may decide to create some more specific tabs, but if not, that's fine.

Type "met" to jump down to metformin



The screenshot shows a software interface for managing medications. At the top, there are three tabs: "All", "Antimicrobials", and "BP and CV Meds". The "All" tab is selected. Below the tabs is a search bar with a dropdown arrow. A red arrow points from the text box on the left to this search bar. The main area displays a list of medications. The first item is highlighted in blue and is "metformin 500mg tablet extended release 24hr". Below it are other metformin tablets and a methylphenidate tablet. Each entry includes the medication name, strength, and form, followed by the signature (Sig), quantity, refills, and generic status.

Description
<b>metformin 500mg tablet extended release 24hr</b> Sig: 1 twice daily Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes
<b>metformin 500mg tablet</b> Sig: 1 twice daily Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes
<b>metformin 1,000mg tablet</b> Sig: 1 twice daily Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes
<b>metformin 500mg tablet</b> Sig: 1 twice daily Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes
<b>methylphenidate 5mg tablet</b> Sig: 1 twice daily, first thing in AM, & at lunch... Quantity: 60   Refills: 0   Generic OK: Yes

# Medication Favorites

Why would anyone NOT create Favorites?

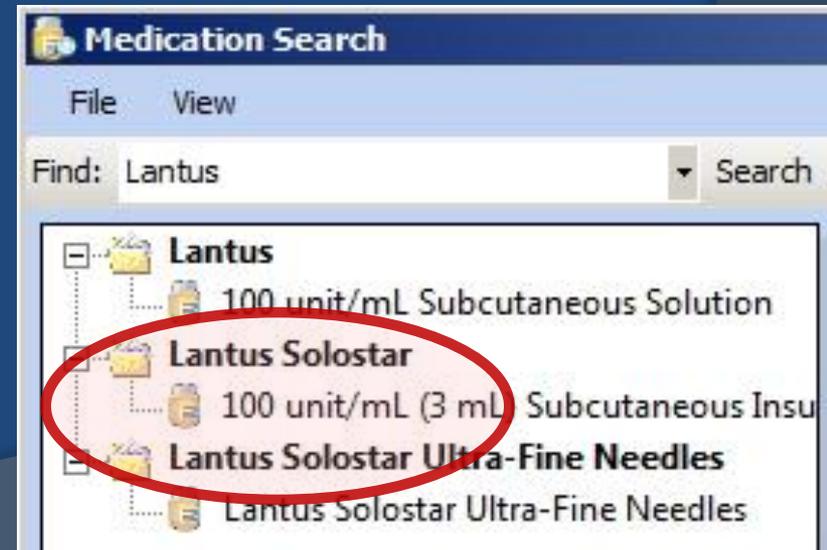
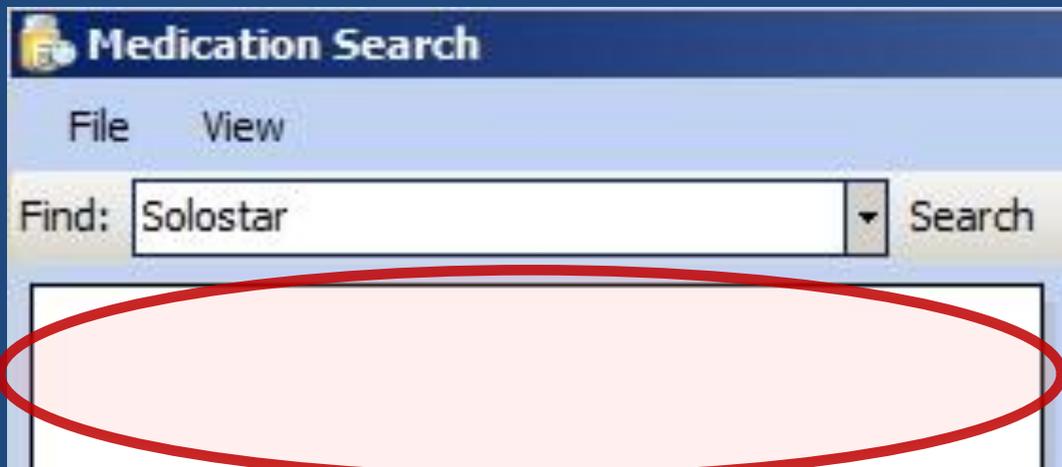
- I'll just have to change the dose & SIG anyway.
- Remind users that they can save multiple doses & formulations of the same medicine.

BP and CV Meds	DM-Lipids X	Misc
Description		
	<b>metformin 500mg tablet extended release 24hr</b> Sig: 1 twice daily <i>Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes</i>	
	<b>metformin 1,000mg tablet extended release 24hr</b> Sig: 1 twice daily <i>Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes</i>	
	<b>metformin 500mg tablet</b> Sig: 1 twice daily <i>Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes</i>	
	<b>metformin 1,000mg tablet</b> Sig: 1 twice daily <i>Quantity: 60   Refills: 5   Generic OK: Yes</i>	

# Medication Favorites

Why would anyone NOT create Favorites?

- Avoid difficult or futile searches.
  - Especially useful for DME items in the Med Module.



# Medication Favorites

Why would anyone NOT create Favorites?

- Make it easier to find custom medications your practice has added.
  - The search function is even more picky about finding custom meds; once you finally find them, add them to your Favorites.

The screenshot shows a software interface titled "Medication Search". At the top, there are menu options "File" and "View". Below the menu is a search bar with "Find:" followed by a text input field containing "Birth C". To the right of the search bar are buttons for "Search", "Class:", "Filters", and "Use Formulary".

On the left side, there is a tree view showing a folder icon next to "Birth Control Pill", which contains a sub-item "Birth Control Pill-Unspecified".

On the right side, there is a list of medication classes: "All", "Antimicrobials", "BP and CV Meds", "DM-Lipids", and "Misc" (which is highlighted in orange). Below the class list is a table with a "Description" header. The table contains one entry: "Birth Control Pill(birth control pill) Birth Control Pill-Unspecified". Below the description, it lists "Sig: -" and "Quantity: 1 | Refills: 11 | Duration: 0 | Generic OK: Yes".

# Medication Favorites

## Edit Heavily

- Every second you spend here is paid back exponentially for the rest of your life.
- Do the SIG first.
  - Changing the SIG often (annoyingly) resets all your other modifications.

All	Antimicrobials	BP and CV Meds	DM-Lipids	Misc X
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Description

 **Boudreauxs Butt Paste(zinc oxide) 40% Topical Ointment**  
Sig: Apply twice daily to nether regions. You can also brush your tooth with it.

Quantity:  Refills:   PRN

Duration:   Generic OK:   Limit Renewals

Comments: *This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. A additional clinical instructions for this prescription should added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.*

# Medication Favorites

## SIG Creation

- Typing a SIG here is often faster & clearer than using the SIG Builder.
- And you'll make better sense than the databank offerings.

The screenshot shows a software interface for medication management. At the top, there are tabs for 'All', 'Antimicrobials' (which is selected and has an 'X' on it), 'BP and CV Meds', and 'DM'. Below the tabs is a table with a 'Description' header. The first row shows 'amoxicillin 400mg tablet, chewable' with a 'Sig: 1 tablet twice daily until all tablets are gone'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Most Used' with a 'Co' label. In this section, the text 'chew 1 tablet by oral route 3 times every day' is circled in red, indicating a user-defined or preferred instruction that differs from the standard database entry.

Description
amoxicillin 400mg tablet, chewable Sig: 1 tablet twice daily until all tablets are gone
<b>Most Used</b> Co chew 1 tablet by oral route 3 times every day

# Medication Favorites

## SIG Creation

- Save SIGs in patient-friendly language.
  - You're only typing it once; it's not like using abbreviations saves you much time.
  - Improve compliance; leave no doubt about how to take the med.
  - Remember your med list goes into the Patient Plan document, so take advantage of the opportunity to drive a point home.

amoxicillin 400mg tablet, chewable

Sig: 1 tablet twice daily until all tablets are gone

Sig: 1 tablet twice daily until all tablets are gone

**Most Used**

Co

chew 1 tablet by oral route 3 times every day

# Medication Favorites

## SIG Creation

- Save SIGs in patient-friendly language.
  - This also improves patient safety & chronic disease management.

Advair Diskus (fluticasone-salmeterol) 250-50mcg/dose Inhalation Disk with Device

Sig: 1 puff twice daily

Sig: 1 puff twice daily about 12 hours apart EVERY DAY, no matter how well your asthma is doing

### Most Used

inhale 1 puff by inhalation route 2 times every day in the morning and evening...

### First Databank Default

inhale 1 puff by inhalation route 2 times every day in the morning and evening...

¿Que?

# Medication Favorites

## SIG Creation

- Some of the default SIG offerings are over 140 characters, impeding E-prescribing.
- But you can type even a detailed steroid taper in under 140 characters.

The screenshot shows a software interface for creating a medication prescription. At the top, there are tabs for 'All', 'Antimicrobials', 'BP and CV Meds', 'DM-Lipids', and 'Misc'. The 'Misc' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a 'Description' field containing 'prednisone 5mg tablet'. A red oval highlights the 'Sig: 8 x2 days, 7 x2 days, 6 x2 days, 5 x2 days, 4 x2 days, 3 x2 days, 2 x2 days, 1 x2 days' text. Below the description, there are fields for 'Quantity: 72', 'Refills: 0', and a 'PRN' checkbox. The 'Duration' is set to '16\_\_'. There is a 'Generic OK: Yes' dropdown and a 'Limit Renewals' checkbox. At the bottom, there is a 'Comments' field with a placeholder text: 'This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. A additional clinical instructions for this prescription should added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.' To the right of the comments field are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

# Medication Favorites

## Quantity & Refills

- Set quantity & refills however you most commonly prescribe them.
  - You can quickly change them later as necessary for an individual patient.

All	Antimicrobials	BP and CV Meds	X	DM-Lipids	Misc
Description					
<b>losartan 100mg tablet</b>					
Sig: 1 daily					
Quantity: 30		Refills: 5		<input type="checkbox"/> PRN	
Duration: 0		Generic OK: Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> Limit Renewals	
Comments: <i>This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. A additional clinical instructions for this prescription should added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.</i>					
					Save
					Cancel

# Medication Favorites

## Duration

- The only **WRONG** duration is the one NextGen sets by default: 0
  - A 0-duration med immediately drops off your active med list.
- For maintenance meds, make duration blank, so the med persists on the active med list until you stop it.
- For episodic drugs, like a course of antibiotics, enter the planned days of use, so it will drop off the active med list when done.
  - Some of our patients have been taking the same 10 days of amoxicillin for years now.

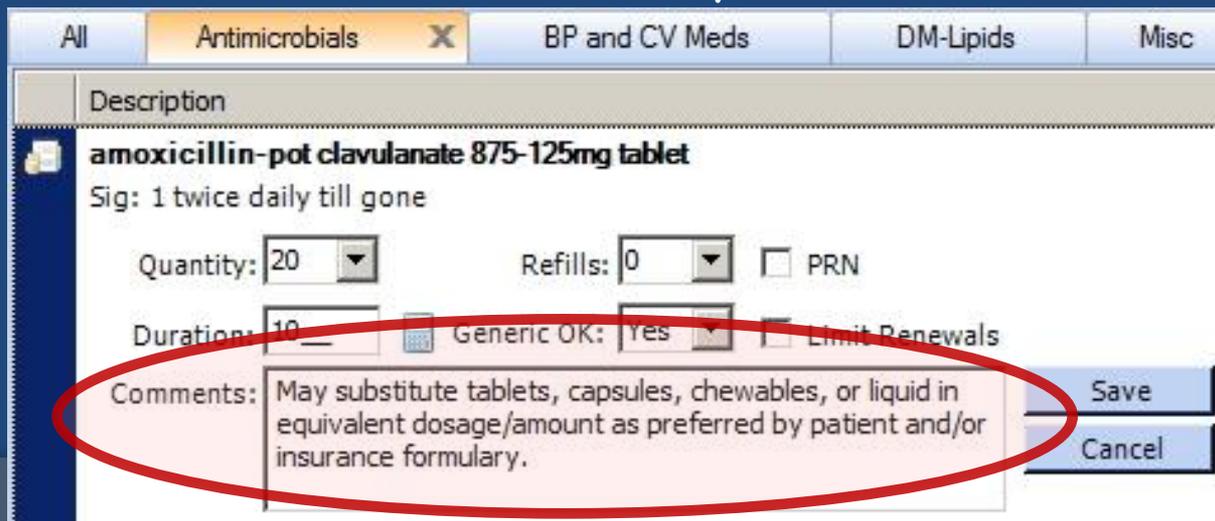
The screenshot shows a software interface for creating a medication prescription. At the top, there are tabs for 'All', 'Antimicrobials', 'BP and CV Meds' (which is selected), 'DM-Lipids', and 'Misc'. Below the tabs is a 'Description' field containing 'losartan 100mg tablet' and 'Sig: 1 daily'. The 'Quantity' is set to 30, 'Refills' to 5, and 'PRN' is unchecked. The 'Duration' field is circled in red and contains the value '0'. 'Generic OK' is set to 'Yes' and 'Limit Renewals' is unchecked. At the bottom, there is a 'Comments' field with a text box containing a note about nonclinical comments, and 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

All	Antimicrobials	BP and CV Meds	DM-Lipids	Misc
Description				
losartan 100mg tablet				
Sig: 1 daily				
Quantity:	30	Refills:	5	<input type="checkbox"/> PRN
Duration:	0	Generic OK:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit Renewals
Comments:	<i>This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. A additional clinical instructions for this prescription should added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.</i>			
				Save
				Cancel

# Medication Favorites

## Comments save you callbacks

- I add this comment to most of my oral meds.
- Yes, pharmacists sometimes overlook things in the comments box.
  - Even if they do, your nurse can see it & respond appropriately.
  - And after 1-2 times the pharmacists will catch on; callbacks waste their time, too.



The screenshot shows a software interface for managing medications. At the top, there are tabs for 'All', 'Antimicrobials', 'BP and CV Meds', 'DM-Lipids', and 'Misc'. The 'Antimicrobials' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a 'Description' field containing the text 'amoxicillin-pot clavulanate 875-125mg tablet'. Underneath the description, there are several input fields: 'Quantity' (set to 20), 'Refills' (set to 0), and a checkbox for 'PRN'. Below these, there is a 'Duration' field (set to 10), a checkbox for 'Generic OK' (checked), and a checkbox for 'Limit Renewals'. At the bottom, there is a 'Comments' field containing the text 'May substitute tablets, capsules, chewables, or liquid in equivalent dosage/amount as preferred by patient and/or insurance formulary.' This comment box is circled in red. To the right of the comment box are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

# Medication Favorites

## Comments save your patients copays

- Many insurance formularies provide insulin & injection supplies for one copay if you include them on the same prescription.
- This also saves you the trouble of prescribing them separately, & the callback when you forget to do so.

The screenshot shows a software interface for medication search. The title bar reads "Medication Search". Below it is a menu bar with "File" and "View". A search bar contains "Lantus Solostar" and a "Search" button. To the right are "Class:" and "Filters" dropdowns, and a "Use Formulary" button. A tree view on the left shows a folder "Lantus Solostar" containing "100 unit/mL (3 mL) Subcutaneous Insu..." and "Lantus Solostar Ultra-Fine Needles", which also contains "Lantus Solostar Ultra-Fine Needles". The main area shows a list of tabs: "All", "Antimicrobials", "BP and CV Meds", "DM-Lipids" (selected), and "Misc". Below the tabs is a "Description" section for "Lantus Solostar (insulin glargine) 100 unit/mL (3 mL) Subcutaneous Insulin Pen". The description includes "Sig: inject subcutaneously as instructed by doctor", "Quantity: 5", "Refills: 11", and a "PRN" checkbox. Below that are "Duration:", "Generic OK: Yes", and "Limit Renewals" checkboxes. The "Comments" field is circled in red and contains the text: "Include Solostar Ultra-Fine Needles, 1 box of 100, or as many as requested by patient or provided by insurance." At the bottom right are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons.

# Medication Favorites

## Comments save your patients copays

- Glucose meters change constantly, & somebody is always offering a rebate at one time or another, so we created this custom medication.
  - Save as a Favorite, & add a comment including test strips & other necessary testing supplies on the same script.

The screenshot shows a software interface titled "Medication Search". At the top, there is a search bar with "Glucose me" entered and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, a list of search results is displayed, with "Glucose Meter Of Choice" highlighted in a red oval. To the right, the configuration details for the selected medication are shown. The "Description" field contains "Glucose Meter Of Choice(glucose meter of choice) Glucose Meter Of Choice". The "Sig" field is "Use as directed". The "Quantity" is set to 1, and "Refills" is 0. The "Generic OK" checkbox is checked, and "Limit Renewals" is unchecked. The "Comments" field contains the text "Include matching test strips, lancets, & lancing device, in amount requested by patient or provided by insurance.", which is also circled in red. At the bottom right, there are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons.

# Medication Favorites

## Comments as a work aid

- It's hard for most non-dermatologists to keep all those steroid classes straight.
  - Use the Comments field as a way to give yourself a reminder without having to leave the EHR.

Misc    Neuro-Psych    EENT-Pul    Pain-MusSkel    Dem X

Description

**desonide 0.05% Topical Ointment**

Sig: Apply once daily to affected area till improved, not to exceed 10 days in a row.

Quantity: 1    Refills: 1     PRN

Duration: \_\_\_\_\_     Generic OK: Yes     Limit Renewals

Comments: 15 gm, or may dispense any appropriately-sized tube you stock, **Group V.**

Save  
Cancel

# Medication Favorites

## As a practice improvement tool

- Share med favorites among your providers.
  - Promotes generic usage, improving formulary compliance & reducing costs.
  - Promotes evidence-based prescribing.
  - Promotes consistency within the practice.



# Medication Favorites

## Not just for providers



- Encourage nurses to set up/use their provider's Favorites.
  - They're the front line for entering historical meds; the faster they can work, the sooner you can see the patient.
  - Workflow:
    - Have every provider create a Favorites Tab called "Nurse."
    - Nurses first look on the All Tab for meds; if not there, search for med & drag to the Nurse Tab.



# Medication Favorites

## Maybe not your favorites, but “Frequent Flyers”

- Even if you never prescribe a drug, you’ll still need to enter meds given by other providers.
  - One might argue that almost any med you ever search for should be added as a favorite, especially for nurses.

The screenshot shows a software interface titled "Medication Search". At the top, there are menu options "File" and "View". Below the menu is a search bar with "Find:" followed by a text input field containing "Geodo" and a dropdown arrow. To the right of the search bar are "Search" and "Class:" labels with dropdown arrows, and a "Filters" label with a dropdown arrow. Below the search bar is a list of search results. The first result is "Geodon" with a folder icon, followed by four entries: "20 mg capsule", "40 mg capsule", "60 mg capsule", and "80 mg capsule", each with a pill icon. To the right of the search results is a table with columns "All", "Antimicrobials", and "BP and CV Meds". Below the table is a "Description" section. The first entry in the description section is "Geodon(ziprasidone hcl) 80mg capsule" with a pill icon, followed by "Sig: take 1 capsule by oral route 2 times every day with food" and "Quantity: 0 | Refills: 0 | Generic OK: Yes". The second entry is "glucosamine-chondroitin 750-600mg tablet" with a pill icon.

Medication Search

File View

Find: Geodo Search Class: Filters

Geodon

- 20 mg capsule
- 40 mg capsule
- 60 mg capsule
- 80 mg capsule

All Antimicrobials BP and CV Meds

Description

Geodon(ziprasidone hcl) 80mg capsule  
Sig: take 1 capsule by oral route 2 times every day with food  
Quantity: 0 | Refills: 0 | Generic OK: Yes

glucosamine-chondroitin 750-600mg tablet