

Lousy handwriting is no joke



"Experts say up to 25 percent of medication errors may be related to illegible handwriting: A pharmacist misreads an illegible prescription; one drug is mixed up with another. Last year, a Texas jury ordered a doctor, drugstore, and pharmacist to pay \$450,000 to the family of a man who died after the pharmacist misread the doctor's handwritten prescription." Time to phase out handwritten prescriptions? CNN.COM, ATLANTA, Georgia (AP), 10/4/2000

"About 6 percent of U.S. hospital patients hurt by medication can be linked to bad handwriting, says the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Such drug reactions hurt or kill 777,000 patients and cost \$1.5 billion to \$5.6 billion each year." Clearly curing the confusion, St. Petersburg Times, 8/2/2003

"Doctors' scrawlings have been linked to thousands of deaths a year from adverse drug reactions. Those errors add an estimated \$2 billion a year to the cost of health care nationwide as mistakes lengthen hospital stays and require extra care for patients." A remedy for doctors' handwriting-Computer entry seen as way to avoid errors, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/24/2002

**Why waste your time writing it down
if no one will be able to read it?**

Las Vegas Area Health Information Management Council