

ASHP's **Informatics** **PEARLS**

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Bethesda, MD

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Director, Special Publishing: Jack Bruggeman
Acquiring Editor, Special Publishing: Hal Pollard
Senior Editorial Project Manager: Dana Battaglia
Page Design: Carol Barrer

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

ASHP's informatics pearls / [edited by] Bonnie Levin, Michael D. Schlesselman.

p. ; cm.

"A collection of Pearls from the 2007 Management Pearls session in Las Vegas"--Pref.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-58528-201-2

1. Medical informatics. 2. Hospital pharmacies. I. Levin, Bonnie. II. Schlesselman, Michael D. III. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. IV. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (42nd : 2007 : Las Vegas, Nev.) V. Title: Informatics pearls. VI. Title: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' informatics pearls.

[DNLM: 1. Clinical Pharmacy Information Systems--organization & administration--Congresses. 2. Drug Therapy--methods--Congresses. 3. Pharmacy--organization & administration--Congresses. QV 26.5 A827 2008]

R858.A867 2008

362.17'82--dc22

2008046806

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ISBN: 978-1-58528-201-2

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Note from the Publisher

The Pearls sessions at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) are some of the best attended sessions each year. With the publication of the “Pearls” series ASHP is attempting to capture the best of these presentations and add a depth of coverage and material that is not possible under the strict time constraints of the MCM pearls presentations. We hope you find this compilation worthwhile.

We encourage ASHP members to participate in the MCM Pearls presentations and for those that are selected to consider turning those presentations into chapters for the Pearls book series. For additional information on becoming a Pearls series author please contact me at jbruggeman@ashp.org

Preface

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists has defined an “Informatic Byte” as an idea, concept, fact, or information that a pharmacist has found useful in their application of informatics and technology, but that “byte” may not be widely known, understood, published, or taught.

This is an exciting time for pharmacists who are interested in informatics because it is the newest specialty of pharmacy practice. Consequently, informatic bytes are the “new” kids on the block in the ASHP “pearl” sessions, as is the Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology. As technology and informatics become more engrained in the practice of pharmacy, the more important and valuable it is to have practitioners from all settings and practices share their collective knowledge through the “byte” sessions. The informatics bytes session are brief and to the point. But as you know, informatics and technology are anything but brief.

Here for the first time, we have attempted to capture in book form the expertise, value, and brevity that characterized these traditional ASHP presentations. Selected presenters have been asked to expand on their original presentations at the 2007 and 2008 ASHP Winter Meeting Informatic Bytes sessions to provide those who could not attend with the opportunity to access the information presented and to provide those who did attend more “depth” than was possible during the brief five minutes each speaker was afforded. So, whether you sat in on the session or not, there should be something useful for you in the pages that follow. And, perhaps these pearls will prompt you to consider submitting a pearl for the next Midyear Clinical Meeting, and we hope that these Bytes will help you improve your ability to use informatics to provide better and safer patient care.

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