



AHFS Drug Information 2018

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[REVIEWER'S EXPERT OPINION]

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****Description****

With this edition, AHFS Drug Information has been in publication for 60 years, providing an evidence-based source of information for safe and effective drug therapy. Updated annually, it contains comprehensively written drug monographs supported by therapeutic guidelines and primary research. The monographs are organized by drug class for easy reference and clinically useful information is outlined, including drug uses, dosage and administration, cautions, drug interactions, and advice for patients.

****Purpose****

One of original purposes of the guide was to refute unfounded efficacy claims, which it remains true to today. It strives to establish medically accepted uses of drugs, both labeled and off-label, and promote evidence-based clinical practice. The reference prides itself on its ability to provide comprehensive, evidence-based drug information to the entire medical and paramedical community. Updates are issued periodically through an electronic database. A reference such as this is essential in clinical practice, as it provides current, pertinent information on the most commonly used drugs in an easily accessible format.

****Audience****

The guide is intended for use in hospitals, clinics, extended-care facilities, nursing homes, health maintenance organizations, and other organized healthcare settings. Potential users include physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. In addition to schools of pharmacy, nursing, and medicine, it is also used in community pharmacies, chain drugstores, and other ambulatory care settings. It is available in print and electronic formats, making it convenient for use in a variety of settings.

There are over 400 authors, including physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, all experts in their respective fields.

****Features****

It is formatted to make it easy to reference drug information. The table of contents is organized by drug class, as is each section of the book. Although all drugs in the class are listed, only the most commonly used drugs are covered in a monograph in each area. This may be a drawback if searching for a particular drug. However, the drugs that are included are covered extensively in monograph format, including clinical uses, dosage and administration, cautions, drug interactions, laboratory test

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interferences, acute toxicity, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, chemistry, stability, and advice for patients.

The book also includes information on orphan drugs, and covers newly approved breakthrough oncology drugs as part of the FDA's accelerated approval program.

Ongoing revisions address opiate safety issues and their role in pain management. Tables enhance the monographs, and include information on drug preparations, susceptibility tests for antimicrobials, dosage adjustments, and therapeutic recommendations. The table of contents is organized by drug class, and the index can be used to search for drug name.

****Assessment****

This is a useful book for healthcare professionals seeking detailed information about a drug, its indications, or its adverse effects. It would be a worthwhile addition to any hospital pharmacy or ambulatory care practice setting.

Weighted Numerical Score: 100 - 5 Stars!