PHARM.D • YEAR 4

Clinical Pharmacy

CHAPTER 5

Drug and Poison Information

PPT CHAPTER COVER



DRUG INFORMATION RESOURCES

Drug information resources provide evidence about indications, dosing, contraindications, interactions, adverse effects, pharmacokinetics and therapeutic use.

- What is it indicated for?
- What is the appropriate dose?
- Are there any contraindications?
- Are there any interactions?
- What are the adverse effects?



- support rational medicine use
- prevent errors and interactions
- answer patient-specific questions
- educate patients and professionals
- guide evidence-based decisions

The quality of the answer depends on both the source and the question.

PRIMARY, SECONDARY & TERTIARY

TERTIARY



Tertiary: summarized resources such as monographs, textbooks, guidelines and drug databases.

SECONDARY



Secondary: indexing or abstracting databases that help locate primary studies.

PRIMARY



Primary: original research, trials and case reports.

Use tertiary sources for orientation, secondary tools for searching, and primary literature for detailed critical appraisal.

No category is automatically sufficient for every query.

DIGITAL RESOURCES & SELECTION

Web and mobile resources improve speed and access, but still require evaluation.

Choose resources by:

- accuracy and evidence quality
- currency and update date
- authority and editorial process
- ease of searching
- availability and cost
- coverage of the relevant specialty or population

For high-impact decisions, verify important facts in more than one authoritative source.



CLARIFY THE REAL QUESTION

Before searching, determine:

- who is asking and why
- medicine, indication and exact issue
- patient age, weight and diagnosis
- renal or hepatic function and comorbidities
- other medicines and allergies
- urgency and required response format

Classify the query:

descriptive, therapeutic, adverse effect, interaction, pharmacokinetic or comparative.

A well-defined question prevents an irrelevant answer.

Vague question



Focused clinical question (PICO)

- **P** Patient (age, weight, diagnosis)
- **I** Intervention (medicine, indication)
- **C** Comparison (other treatment)
- **O** Outcome (exact issue)

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