



New National Children's Medicines Dosing Resource to be available mid-2013

The Department of Health and Ageing is coordinating the development of a new national paediatric medicines dosing resource.

The project, an initiative of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC), involves the development and ongoing publication of a national paediatric dosing resource containing the most commonly used medicines in Australia for children and young people from birth to 18 years of age. It will provide an essential reference with specific Australian information, fulfilling a need which has been identified by paediatricians, general practitioners and healthcare facilities.

The Department of Health and Ageing, in its capacity as a member of AHMAC, has engaged Adelaide-based Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd (AMH) to develop and maintain the paediatric dosing resource, which will be available for sale from mid-2013. AMH is widely recognised within the Australian healthcare sector as a leading independent provider of drug information. The company produces and publishes a range of medicines reference books and software, including the annual Australian Medicines Handbook.

The resource will be for use by all Australian health professionals prescribing, dispensing and administering medicines to children, and will be a primary resource for treating children in Australian community and acute care settings. The resource will also be useful as an information source for students of medicine, nursing and pharmacy.

Description

The first edition of the resource will provide practical information on the safe and effective use of approximately 240 prescription and over-the-counter medicines. Additional medicines will be added to future editions of the resource.

Information on individual medicines will include dosing information for various age groups, as well as more general advice on medicines use for children. The content will be evidence-based and peer reviewed by clinical experts across a range of disciplines.

The resource will be published in an online format accessible via computers and smartphones. AMH will also produce a printed handbook for purchase by healthcare providers who are not equipped to use the resource electronically.

The online resource will be updated every six months, to ensure all the information is current and includes any new or revised evidence. The printed handbook will be updated at least annually.

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