

## Review of *Guidelines on practice-specific issues – Guideline 1* *References*

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4 April 2011

### Guidelines on practice-specific issues – Guideline 1 References

#### Introduction

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) published its *Guidelines on practice-specific issues* on 12 August, 2010. Guideline 1 of the *Guidelines* outlines that up-to-date works of reference, which are considered essential to the practice of pharmacy, must be readily accessible to pharmacists. The information is to be available to the pharmacist immediately during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes. The Board publishes on its website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au) under *Codes and guidelines* an up-to-date list of essential references.

The Board consulted on the *Guidelines* before publication and has since taken into consideration further feedback regarding the wording of the *Guidelines* and the suitability of particular references included in the list of required references. The Board directed its Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee to review Guideline 1 – References to determine whether changes to the *Guidelines* were required and if any amendments to the list of references were warranted.

#### Summary of changes to the *Guidelines*

The feedback taken into consideration centred on the suitability of the range of references in the Australian practice setting and the use of references relevant to a pharmacist's area of practice.

#### *References used by pharmacists undertaking medication reviews*

Particular references listed in Guideline 1 are currently asterisked (\*) to indicate that these are “for pharmacists undertaking medication reviews.” The Board proposes to remove this statement as it believes it has the potential to cause confusion. The Board's intention is that all references must be accessible to all pharmacists undertaking dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes.

The Board proposes to include the following additional text in the *Guidelines* and as a note in the list of references published on the Board's website:

*In addition to accessing the references listed in these Guidelines during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes, pharmacists should use additional references relevant to their area of practice. Consideration should also be given to accessing reference material which provides information in the Australian context. Pharmacists may also need to use more than one reference to ensure that all current and relevant information is accessed.*

The proposed revised wording of Guideline 1 is at Attachment A.

### *The published list of references*

The Board proposes one amendment to the range of references published on its website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au) under *Codes and guidelines* as an attachment to Guideline 1. The published list of references currently provides the following two options for a reference on therapeutics:

- Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference; or
- Therapeutic Guidelines Limited Series
  - analgesic
  - antibiotic
  - cardiovascular
  - dermatology
  - endocrinology
  - gastrointestinal
  - neurology
  - oral and dental
  - palliative care
  - psychotropic
  - respiratory and/or
  - rheumatology.

The Board proposes to remove *Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference* from the list of references and to require pharmacists to have access to *Therapeutic Guidelines Series (hardcopy), eTG or equivalent*. The basis of the Board's decision is that the *Therapeutic Guidelines Series* is a source of therapeutics information in the Australian context. Whilst *Martindale* is a valuable reference, it is the view of the Board that pharmacists should make a personal decision to keep this as an additional reference based on their assessment of their individual areas of practice.

The Board also amended the title of the *MIMS Annual addenda* to *MIMS Abbreviated* as it is currently known.

The proposed revised list of references is at Attachment B.

## Feedback

The Board is seeking feedback on the following proposals:

1. to remove the statement “*For pharmacists undertaking medication reviews*”,
2. the addition of the paragraph “*In addition to accessing the references listed in these Guidelines during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes, pharmacists should use additional references relevant to their area of practice. Consideration should also be given to accessing reference material which provides information in the Australian context. Pharmacists may also need to use more than one reference to ensure that all current and relevant information is accessed.*” and
3. to amend the list of references published on the Board’s website including the removal of *Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference* from the list of references and to require pharmacists to have access to *Therapeutic Guidelines Series (hardcopy), eTG or equivalent*.

Please provide feedback to the Board by email to [pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) or by post to Executive Officer, Pharmacy Board of Australia, G.P.O. Box 9958, MELBOURNE VIC 3001 by close of business on Friday, 27 May 2011.

## Guidelines on practice-specific issues: Proposed revision

### 1 References

Up-to-date works of reference are essential to the practice of pharmacy and must be readily accessible to pharmacists.

#### *Guidelines*

Pharmacists must be able to readily access contemporary works of professional reference in either conventional or electronic forms. The information is to be immediately available to the pharmacist during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes.

The Board's website includes an up-to-date list of essential references.

The *Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook* includes Internet addresses on a wide variety of subjects.

All Australian, State and Territory acts and regulations, and a number of additional references are accessible on the Internet.

In addition to accessing the references listed in these *Guidelines* during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes, pharmacists should use additional references relevant to their area of practice. Consideration should also be given to accessing reference material which provides information in the Australian context. Pharmacists may also need to use more than one reference to ensure that all current and relevant information is accessed.

While it is the pharmacy owner's responsibility to provide the resources, it is the responsibility of the pharmacist to ensure prescribed references are readily available and accessed when required. As part of the premises approval process, State or Territory pharmacy premises authorities may prescribe particular references in addition to those shown on the Board's website.

## Guidelines on practice-specific issues - Guideline 1 (List of References): Proposed revision

### Guideline 1

#### References to be accessed by pharmacists

**Current editions** of the following references in the form of a published document (hard copy) or via electronic means, such as computer, must be readily accessible and should be accessed by pharmacists during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes:

- a the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook (APF)**
- b the Australian Medicines Handbook**
- c Therapeutic Guidelines Series (hardcopy), eTG or equivalent**
- d a reference work on prescription products**
  - MIMS Annual with MIMS Abbreviated; or
  - e-MIMS; or
  - AusDI Advanced.
- e a Drug Interactions reference (updated at least quarterly)**
  - AusDI Advanced; or
  - Drug Interaction Facts – Facts and Comparisons; or
  - Drug Interactions Analysis and Management, Hansten and Horn; or
  - eMIMS Drug Alert Interactions; or
  - Micromedex; or
  - Stockley's Drug Interactions online; or
  - Lexi-Interact Online.
- f a paediatric pharmacopoeia published by an Australian teaching hospital**
- g an evidence-based reference work on complementary and alternate medicines**
  - Herbs and Natural Supplements: An evidence based guide. Braun and Cohen; or
  - Herbal Medicines. Barnes, Anderson and Phillipson; or
  - e-MIMS; or
  - AusDI Advanced.

**The following can be accessed electronically via websites:**

- h copies of the legislation controlling the practice of pharmacy:**

- the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory
- Drugs/Medicines and Poisons legislation for each jurisdiction
- Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP)
- Immunisation Handbook

**i the Pharmacy Board of Australia Guidelines**

**j the Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy**

(Merck Sharp and Dohme)

*Note: In addition to accessing the references listed in these Guidelines, during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes, pharmacists should use additional references relevant to their area of practice. Consideration should also be given to accessing reference material which provides information in the Australian context. Pharmacists may also need to use more than one reference to ensure that all current and relevant information is accessed.*