



Executive Officer
Pharmacy Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958 Melbourne
Victoria 3001

26 May 2011

Re: Feedback on review of PBA Guideline 1 References

Please find attached a response from the 15 pharmacists currently employed by Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd (AMH).

Our average time in practice is 25 years (range 9-50 years). Most of the group have been drug information pharmacists for significant periods, and most have worked in hospital and/or community pharmacy in addition to a wide variety of other roles.

Whilst we appreciate the amount of work that the recent changes in registration will have generated, we feel that more consideration of this Guideline is required in order that it reflect contemporary practice and the range of resources of suitable quality that best support pharmacists in their work.

To this end we have addressed the specific items that PBA has asked for feedback on, and as a result of our comments, also provided some further suggestions on the arrangement and content of the references in this guideline. We acknowledge these are more than was requested, but hope you are able to consider them.

We would be pleased to discuss our suggestions with you, should you wish to do so.

Yours Sincerely

Simone Rossi

Managing Editor, on behalf of AMH editorial staff

Feedback from pharmacists employed at Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd

The Board is seeking feedback on the following proposals:

1. to remove the statement "For pharmacists undertaking medication reviews",

Agreed

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.*"

Agreed

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*.

Martindale and the Therapeutic Guidelines series cannot be considered equivalent resources. In our view Martindale is still the pre-eminent pharmacy publication and nothing on the list proposed can be considered equivalent. It provides a comprehensive coverage of clinical pharmacology and drug information not available from any of the other listed resources. We wish to record our discontent that a pharmacy body has made such a proposal. However, if the final decision is to make Martindale a non-compulsory reference, consideration should be given to creating a 'Desirable but optional' resources list which would direct users to a variety of useful resources. Martindale should be included in this list.

Please see our suggested approach with comments at Attachment 1

Attachment 1

Guidelines on practice-specific issues - Guideline 1 (List of References): **Proposed revision by AMH pharmacists**

Guideline 1

References to be accessed by pharmacists

A source of current Australian PI and CMI

Free

- TGA electronic business service

<https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/>

By Subscription

- MIMS Annual with MIMS Abbreviated; or
- e-MIMS; or
- AusDI Advanced.

B Australian practice manuals/tertiary references

Australian Immunisation Handbook

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home>

Australian Medicines Handbook

Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook (APF)

Therapeutic Guidelines Series (hardcopy), eTG Complete or equivalent (see suggestions below*)

C Drug Interactions reference

- eMIMS Drug Alert Interactions; or
- Stockley's Drug Interactions online; or
- Drug Interaction Analysis and Management Hansten and Horn (looseleaf format)
- AusDI Advanced; or
- Drug Interaction Facts – Facts and Comparisons; or
- Lexi-Interact Online; or
- Micromedex

Comment [SR1]: Frequency of updating removed as incongruous to have here only. Much more important that PI and CMI are up to date, but nothing said there. We note that Micromedex is very costly (>\$5000 per annum). Have given some consideration to cost and quality in the order of this list, which we think is too long

D A source of paediatric dosing information, preferably relevant to the Australian setting

•see suggestions below#

Comment [SR2]: At present, there is no **Australian paediatric pharmacopoeia** published by an Australian teaching hospital that is current (RCH last published 2002). This entry should be reworded; we have made a suggestion.

E an evidence-based reference work on complementary and alternate medicines

- Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database
- Natural Standard Herb and Supplement Guide: an evidence based review (Mosby) or
- Herbs and Natural Supplements: An evidence based guide. Braun and Cohen; or
- Herbal Medicines. Barnes, Anderson and Phillipson; (does not cover non-herbal items) or
- AusDI Advanced

Comment [SR3]: e-MIMS PI for CMs cannot be considered evidence based, so deleted. There are better quality resources available than some of those listed. We have amended to include resources highly rated in the NPS review of CM resources.

F Legal, professional practice and regulatory resources

The following can be accessed electronically without cost:

- Pharmacy Board of Australia Guidelines
- Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory
- Pharmacy, Drugs/Medicines and Poisons legislation for each jurisdiction
- Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP)
- TGA **Medicines Safety Updates** and **Recalls and Alerts**

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

Desirable but optional references

Martindale: the extrapharmacopoeia (International)
AHFS Drug Information (US)

Free, Australian

NPS Radar
NPS News
NPS PPR
Australian Prescriber

Free, international

Drugs in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

LactMed
<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?LACT>

Motherisk
<http://www.motherisk.org/women/index.jsp>

OTIS
<http://www.otispregnancy.org>

Drug interactions

Flockhart
<http://medicine.iupui.edu/clinpharm/ddis/>

Clinical practice search engine

TRIP database
www.tripdatabase.com

Evidence based General Practice including therapeutics

Bandolier (UK)
<http://www.medicine.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/>

General Medical text

Merck Manual
<http://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/index.html>

Comment [SR4]: We have tried to give some advice about appropriate high quality free references. Merck Manual stands out as a resource funded by the pharmaceutical industry and one where much of the information can now easily be gleaned by judicious use of other internet resources. We'd suggest it could be removed and replaced with other sources.

***Therapeutics resources (may serve as equivalent to some parts of the Therapeutic Guidelines series)**

Free, Australian

Relevant good quality Australian Clinical Practice Guidelines e.g.;

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/titles_guidelines.htm

<http://www.racgp.org.au/guidelines>

[http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/INFORMATION-FOR-PROFESSIONALS/CLINICAL-
INFORMATION/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/INFORMATION-FOR-PROFESSIONALS/CLINICAL-
INFORMATION/Pages/default.aspx)

Subscription

Examples include:

CKS (UK)

<http://www.cks.nhs.uk/home>

Up to Date (US)

<http://www.uptodate.com/index>

BMJ Clinical Evidence (International)

<http://clinicalevidence.bmj.com/ceweb/index.jsp>

#Paediatric resources

BNFc (UK)

Pediatric Dosage Handbook Taketomo, C et al (US)

Paediatrics Manual, The Children's Hospital at Westmead Handbook
(contains a drug doses section)