



Ref: POLGOV/PB-AUST

27 May 2011

Mr Joe Brizzi
Executive Officer
Pharmacy Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Mr Brizzi

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

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia agrees with the need for pharmacists to have ready access to essential reference resources supporting pharmacy practice. However, mandatory reference resources must be relevant to general pharmacy practice. With this in mind, we are pleased to support the proposed amendments to the reference list required by pharmacists. While Martindale is an excellent reference, we agree it is a specialist book and the Therapeutic Guidelines series is a more appropriate therapeutics reference for the Australian pharmacy setting.

This consultation also provides an opportunity to reconsider the need for mandating 'a paediatric pharmacopoeia published by an Australian teaching hospital' (section f) and 'an evidence-based reference work on complementary and alternate medicines' (section g). Both of these categories are covered by the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook (APF) and we note that the reference works on prescription products (section d) includes two of the reference options for complementary and alternative medicines. Regarding paediatric medicine, the APF includes a 'Children's Formulary' section and many of the clinical monographs include paediatric doses. We suggest the mandatory reference list could be streamlined by removing sections 'f' and 'g' without deleterious effects to pharmacy practice. We would also support recommendations for ongoing improvement to relevant sections within the APF as a means for reducing the cost burden for pharmacists in maintaining their reference library.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and trust this is of use. Access to relevant reference resources will be of great assistance for pharmacists to ensure they are capable of meeting their professional responsibilities as a key member of the health care team.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Phillips
Executive Director

National Secretariat

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