

24<sup>th</sup> May 2011

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

SHPA offers the following comments.

1. SHPA agrees that all references must be accessible to all pharmacists undertaking dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes and supports the removal of the statement “*For pharmacists undertaking medication reviews.*”
2. SHPA supports the inclusion of the additional text:

*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.*

3. In principle SHPA supports the removal of the *Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference* from the list of reference works on therapeutics however we note that Martindale remains an excellent source of information about overseas products and indications.
4. In addition SHPA believes that the preamble to the list of references should provide guidance to pharmacists on the use of electronic versions of published documents. Several references are available in a hardcopy, static electronic version (e.g. CD), online electronic version or a web application version. The content may vary in terms of version / date reviewed but also in the degree of information provided (e.g. full analysis to condensed one to two sentence summary). The PBA should comment on the advantages and disadvantages of each of the four formats and if pharmacists are obliged to confirm information used from either of these sources.
5. SHPA also notes that the current version of the Australian paediatric pharmacopoeia was published in 2002. Consideration should be given to listing alternative references until an updated Australian reference is available (such as the Paediatric Dosage Handbook or the BNF for children).

Please contact SHPA CEO Yvonne Allinson on [shpa@shpa.org.au](mailto:shpa@shpa.org.au) for further information.

Yours sincerely



Sue Kirsas  
President

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**The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia**