

THIRD EDITION

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Drugs You Need to Know

Michael A. Mancano, PharmD

Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice
Clinical Professor in Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy

Jason C. Gallagher, PharmD, FCCP, FIDSA, BCPS

Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Clinical Specialist, Infectious Diseases
Director, PGY2 Residency in Infectious Diseases Pharmacy
Temple University School of Pharmacy



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*To the alumni, present students, and future students
of Temple University School of Pharmacy*



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A Message from the Authors

The genesis of this text was as a resource for Temple University School of Pharmacy (TUSP) students to prepare for their “Top 200 Exam,” which is an exam about highly pertinent facts for frequently prescribed medications that all students in third professional year must pass before beginning the fourth professional year. Before writing earlier versions of this book, faculty at TUSP reviewed many texts, flash cards, and other resources but found none to be an optimal reference for our students’ needs. Many texts were extraordinarily detailed or did not emphasize important information clearly and concisely since drugs were included based on sales or volume instead of factoring importance. For the past 15 years at Temple, we have used annually updated versions of this text, and students and faculty have found them to be very helpful resources. The three published editions of this text expand on the original in-house versions by including review questions and key points for each drug and drug class.

We hope that this text will serve as a useful reference for healthcare students and professionals of various disciplines as they learn the most frequently used medications in clinical practice.

Thank you,

Michael A. Mancano, Pharm.D.

Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice
Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Consultant, Internal Medicine
Pennsylvania Hospital

Jason C. Gallagher, Pharm.D., FCCP, FIDSA, BCPS

Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Infectious Diseases
Temple University School of Pharmacy

Preface

The primary goal of this text is not to cover every medication available, but to highlight the most commonly prescribed and utilized medications in the United States. These medications and the central issues with their use are essential knowledge for healthcare students prior to initiating their curricular clinical experiences. Focusing on the most commonly prescribed medications should result in the medications of highest importance being included, but it can also result in some inadvertent exclusions, such as for specialty medications and those that are rising in utility.

New to this Edition

In creating the third edition of the text, we reviewed the current usage patterns of medications available in the United States. In doing so, over 100 new drugs and drug products were added to this edition of the text. Specifically, the “Mechanism of Action” section for each drug class was expanded to include more detail. All aspects of each drug and drug class were updated to include new dosage forms, dosing schedules, side effects, drug interactions, and new indications. A final addition is 30 new review questions that were added at the end of every chapter.

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Contributors

Michael Barros, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, BC-ADM

Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Heart Failure/Transplant
Temple University Hospital

Neela Bhajandas, PharmD, BCCCP

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Critical Care
Temple University Hospital

Jane F. Bowen, PharmD, BCPS

Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, Internal Medicine
Department of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacy
Administration
Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, University of the Sciences

Lawrence Carey, PharmD

Associate Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice and
Director of Experiential Education
Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Internal Medicine
Temple University Hospital

Marissa Cavaretta, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Internal Medicine
Temple University Hospital

Amy M. Cheng, PharmD, AAHIVP, BCACP

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
HIV Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
Temple University General Internal Medicine
Pediatric HIV Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Deborah DeEugenio-Mayro, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care Temple Medicine
Group Practice

Justina O. Frimpong, PharmD, BCOP

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Oncology Ambulatory Care
Fox Chase Cancer Center at Temple University Hospital

Anisha Grover, PharmD, BCACP

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care
Temple Medicine Group Practice
Temple University Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy

Alexandra M. Hanretty, PharmD

Clinical Pharmacist, Infectious Diseases
Pharmacy Leader for Antimicrobial Stewardship
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Van Hellerslia, PharmD, BCPS, CACP

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Neurocritical Care
Multiple Sclerosis Clinic
Temple University Hospital
Department of Neurology

Patrick McDonnell, PharmD, FASHP

Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Consultant
Jeanes Hospital

Margaret A. Miklich, PharmD, BCACP

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care
Pennsylvania Hospital, Wood Clinic

Nima M. Patel-Shori, PharmD, BCACP

Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care
Temple Medicine Group Practice

Michelle Peahota, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Pharmacist, Infectious Diseases
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Adjunct Faculty
Jefferson College of Pharmacy

Mirza E. Perez, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care
Premier Pharmacy Network
Clinical Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy

Talitha L. Pulvino, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Temple University General Internal
Medicine

Melissa M. Ranieri, PharmD

Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Internal Medicine
Temple University Hospital

Susan Kent Romann, PharmD, BCGP

Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Ambulatory Care
Pennsylvania Hospital, Wood Clinic

Christina Rose, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Specialist, Critical Care
Temple University Hospital

Melissa E. Rotz, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Internal Medicine
Temple University Hospital

Charles Ruchalski, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Ambulatory Care Specialist, Stroke Prevention Clinic
Temple University Hospital
Department of Neurology

Jacqueline Theodorou, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Temple University School of Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacist, Internal Medicine
Temple University Hospital

Abbreviations Used in the Text

5-HT ₃ receptors	Serotonin subtype-3 receptors	ER	Extended release
ACC/AHA	American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association	ESRD	End stage renal disease
ACE	Angiotensin converting enzyme	FAP	Familial adenomatous polyposis
ACE-I	Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor	FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	G6PD	Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome	G-CSF	Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor
ALA	Alpha linoleic acid	GERD	Gastroesophageal reflux disease
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase	GFR	Glomerular filtration rate
aPTT	Activated partial thromboplastin time	GI	Gastrointestinal
ARB	Angiotensin receptor blocker	GU	Genitourinary
ARDS	Acute respiratory distress syndrome	HCT	Hematocrit
ASCVD	Artherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	HCTZ	Hydrochlorothiazide
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase	HDL	High-density lipoprotein
BAS	Bile acid sequestrant	HFrEF	Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction
BMT	Bone marrow transplant	HGB	Hemoglobin
BPH	Benign prostatic hyperplasia	HIT	Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia
BZD	Benzodiazepine	HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
CABG	Coronary artery bypass graft	HMG-CoA	Hydroxymethylglutaryl-coenzyme A
CBC	Complete blood count	HPA	Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis
cGMP	Cyclic guanosine monophosphate	IBS	Irritable bowel syndrome
CHF	Congestive heart failure	IM	Intramuscular
CIN	Contrast-induced nephropathy	INR	International normalized ratio
CKD	Chronic kidney disease	IOP	Intraocular pressure
ClCrest	Estimated creatinine clearance	IR	Immediate release
CNI	Calcineurin inhibitors	IV	Intravenous
CNS	Central nervous system	LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	LDLR	Low-density lipoprotein receptors
COX-2	Cyclooxygenase-2	LFT	Liver function test
CPK	Creatine phosphokinase	LMWH	Low molecular weight heparin
CrCl	Creatinine clearance	MAO	Monoamine oxidase
CRF	Chronic renal failure	MAOI	Monoamine oxidase inhibitor
CTZ	Chemoreceptor trigger zone	MDI	Metered-dose inhaler
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident	MI	Myocardial infarction
CYP	Cytochrome P450	MOA	Mechanism of action
DHA	Docosahexaenoic acid	MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone	MRSA	Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulopathy	NG tube	Nasogastric tube
DKA	Diabetic ketoacidosis	NLO	Nasolacrimal occlusion
DMARD	Disease modifying antirheumatic drug	NMS	Neuroleptic malignant syndrome
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid	NNRTI	Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor
DRESS	Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms	NRTI	Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor
DVT	Deep vein thrombosis	NSAID	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
eGFR	Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate	NTE	Not to exceed
EKG	Electrocardiogram	OAB	Overactive bladder
EPA	Eicosapentaenoic acid	OTC	Over the counter
EPS	Extrapyramidal symptoms		

PBPC	Peripheral blood progenitor cell collection	SJS	Stevens-Johnson syndrome
PCI	Percutaneous coronary intervention	SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus
PCP	<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> pneumonia	SSRI	Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitor
PCSK9	Proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9	SUB-Q	Subcutaneous
PDE5	Phosphodiesterase type 5	TCA	Tricyclic antidepressant
PE	Pulmonary embolism	TD	Transdermal
PI	Protease inhibitor	TG	Triglyceride
PPAR α	Peroxisome proliferator activated receptors	TIA	Transient ischemic attack
PPI	Proton pump inhibitor	TLC	Therapeutic lifestyle changes
PSA	Prostate Specific Antigen	TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
PTCA	Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty	TNF	Tumor necrosis factor
PUD	Peptic ulcer disease	TPA	Tissue plasminogen activator
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis	UFH	Unfractionated heparin
RDA	Recommended dietary allowance	VKA	Vitamin K antagonist
RNA	Ribonucleic acid	VLDL	Very low density lipoprotein
SCN	Severe chronic neutropenia		
SCr	Serum creatinine		
SGLT2	Sodium glucose cotransporter 2		

Pregnancy Category Information

All medications covered in this text have pregnancy classification information. However, for some of the medications, the current information is the pregnancy category classes that have been in effect since 1980 (i.e., Category A, B, C, D, X).

You will notice that some medications do not utilize the prior system. In 2015, the FDA replaced the former pregnancy risk letter categories with new information to make them more meaningful to both patients and healthcare providers. The FDA received comments that the old five-letter system left patients and providers ill-informed and resulted in false assumptions about the actual meaning of the letters. The new labeling system allows better patient-specific counseling and informed decision-making for pregnant women seeking medication therapies. While the new labeling improves the old format, it still does not provide a definitive “yes” or “no” answer in most cases. Clinical interpretation is still required on a case-by-case basis.

The Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Final Rule (PLLR) went into effect on June 30, 2015; however, the timelines for implementing this new information on drug labels is variable. Prescription drugs submitted for FDA approval after June 30, 2015, will use the new format immediately, while labeling for prescription drugs approved on or after June 30, 2001, will be phased in gradually. Medications approved prior to June 29, 2001, are not subject to the PLLR rule; however, the pregnancy letter category must be removed by June 29, 2018.

Pregnancy Categories

Category A: Controlled studies in women fail to demonstrate a risk to the fetus in the first trimester (and there is no evidence of a risk in later trimesters), and the possibility of fetal harm appears remote.

Category B: Either animal-reproduction studies have not demonstrated a fetal risk but there are no controlled studies in pregnant women or animal-reproduction studies have shown an adverse effect (other than a decrease in fertility) that was not confirmed in controlled studies in women in the first trimester (and there is no evidence of a risk in later trimesters).

Category C: Either studies in animals have revealed adverse effects on the fetus (teratogenic or embryocidal, or other) and there are no controlled studies in women or studies in women and animals are not available. Drugs should be given only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Category D: There is positive evidence of human fetal risk, but the benefits from use in pregnant women may be acceptable despite the risk (e.g., if the drug is needed in a life-threatening situation or for a serious disease for which safer drugs cannot be used or are ineffective).

Category X: Studies in animals or human beings have demonstrated fetal abnormalities, or there is evidence of fetal risk based on human experience, or both, and the risk of the use of the drug in pregnant women clearly outweighs any possible benefit. The drug is contraindicated in women who are or may become pregnant.