

DRUG INFORMATION

Description

Drug information is the provision of unbiased ,well referenced and critically evaluated information on any aspect of pharmacy practice.

Need of drug information:

- The number of drugs in the international market has increased very much
- The newer drugs are generally more potent and selective, and formulation becoming increasingly complex.
- The literature on drugs has also expanded and covers a wide range of information.
- To introduce a new drug into the practice, the professionals need to evaluate the given information.
- A simple ,quick reference to a pharmacopoeia or formulary is no longer sufficient.

Aims and objectives of drug information services:

- The provision of information to health professionals on specific problems related to the use of drugs particular patients.
- The provision of information to officials in government agencies to optimize the decision making process
- The preparation and development of guidelines and formularies.
- To improve patient compliance and to provide a guide to responsible self medication
- To develop and participate in continuing education programs.
- To participate in undergraduate and graduate teaching program.
- To develop education activities regarding the appropriate use of drugs for patients in the community.
- To prepare and distribute material on drugs to health personnel in the form of a drug information bulletin and other media.
- To develop and participate in research programs.

Sources Of information:

| SOURCE | EXPLANATION | ADVANTAGES | DISADVANTAGES |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| Primary source | Information is presented by authors without any evaluation by a second party. Provides must current information about drugs. | Adapted information recent, Up-to-date Not available to competitors | Costly Difficult to collect Time consuming |

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| | Ex: Articles published in journals(British medical journal). taxis | | |
| Secondary source | The original source has been evaluated by second party other than the publisher Modified and rearranged form Example: Review articles like lexis - nexis, Medline. Text books | Low in cost Diversity Available Problem definition Familiar with market | Incomplete ,outdated Inadequate False information Difficult to control |
| Tertiary source | Information obtained from primary and secondary source and arranged in a manner to represent a composite of the available information. Example: Representative from pharmacopeias- BP,USP,IP,Encyclopedia | Easy and convenient access to a broad spectrum of topics. Background information on drugs and diseases. Answer many drug related problem, excellent first line resources. | Lag time associated with publication Incomplete information, human bias Lack of expertise by authors misinterpretation of primary and secondary literature. |