

A guide to the Australian Medicines Handbook

Cathy Lynch
Clinical Pharmacy - UP
August 2019

Goals

- To understand how to use AMH
- To become familiar with sections of AMG



Sections of the AMH

Guides available:

- Prescribing for children
- Prescribing for the elderly
- Prescribing for palliative care
- Prescribing for pregnant women
- Prescribing for breastfeeding women
- Prescribing in renal impairment
- Prescribing in obesity
- Prescribing in sport
- Prescribing biosimilars
- Adverse effects
- Drugs in sport

Sections of the AMH (2018 edition)

- 20 chapters (such as analgesics, endocrine, cardiology, neurological, respiratory)
- Drug interactions
- Appendix A – miscellaneous drugs and late additions
- Appendix B – body surface area
- Appendix C – Average weight and height according to age for children
- Appendix D – reference ranges for common laboratory values
- Appendix E – drug information centers
- Abbreviations
- Condition Based Section (ie. Hypertension)
- Class Statements (ie. Beta blockers)
- Drug Monographs (ie. Metoprolol)

Indications

- Marketed indications approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA – regulatory body in Australia)
- Some accepted indications which have not been approved by the therapeutic goods administration but where there is evidence to support their use

- **QUESTION:**

What are the indications for metoprolol?

Precautions

- Coexisting conditions that may require consideration during/before treatment
- Information about potential outcome of use in hepatic and/or renal impairment and dose adjustments needed
- Management before surgery
- Use in children and the elderly
- Use in Pregnancy and breastfeeding
- **QUESTION:** Please tell me the precautions for metformin?
- **QUESTION:** Can I use metformin in someone with renal failure?
- **QUESTION:** When should aspirin be stopped prior to surgery?
- **QUESTION:** Can benzodiazepines be used in the elderly? If so, which one is most suitable?
- **QUESTION:** Can tetracyclines be used in breastfeeding?

Adverse Effects

- not an exhaustive list of all the adverse effects that have been reported
- selected according to likely causality with the drug (classified according to their probably incidence)
 - common, incidence of 1% or more
 - infrequent, incidence between 0.1% - 1%
 - rare, less than 0.1%
- warning boxes have been inserted when special care is necessary
- where relevant; specific advice about prevention and management of adverse effects is provided
- **QUESTION:** What are the common adverse effects of metronidazole
- **QUESTION:** What is the likelihood of experiencing muscle weakness when taking hydroxychloroquine?

Dosage

- Provided by indication and form
- Includes initial and maintenance doses when relevant
- Specific dosing: children, elderly, hepatic, renal impairment

- **QUESTION:** What dose is recommended of enalapril?
- **QUESTION:** What dose of pravastatin should be used in renal impairment?

Comparative Information

- Compares drugs of the same class, or different class (is in either the condition based section, or the class statements)
- Information pertaining to pharmacokinetic properties, convenience of administration, specific interactions or precautions for use included where relevant

Counseling

- Found in class statement or drug monograph
- Written in everyday language
- Only selected points are included based on clinical significance
- **QUESTION:** What counseling points should be covered for rifampicin when talking to a patient

Practice Points

- Important information which does not readily fall into another section
- **QUESTION** :list practice points of azoles

Products Available

- Lists most commercially available products
- Includes form, colour, strength, pack sizes, brand name, company name
- **QUESTION:** I want my patient to take 80mg of frusemide in the morning and at midday. How many tablets will they need to take?

Any questions?

