

AHFS Drug Information[®] Users Guide[®]

Organization of the Book

AHFS Drug Information[®] is a collection of drug monographs on virtually every single-drug entity available in the United States. *AHFS Drug Information*[®] is a tested and proven source of comparative, unbiased, and evaluative drug information.

AHFS Drug Information[®] monographs are written principally on single-drug entities; information on various trademarked preparations and brands of a drug is contained in a single monograph. Drug *combinations* are described in the monographs on the principal ingredients or, rarely, appear as separate monographs (e.g., Co-trimoxazole 8:12.20) when the combinations are considered important because of therapeutic rationale and/or frequency of use. There also are general statements on groups of drugs (e.g., Salicylates 28:08.04.24) whose activities and uses permit their discussion as a class. Information on older and prototype drugs is another feature of *AHFS Drug Information*[®].

Drug monographs are arranged by the widely recognized and used *AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classification*[®]. This arrangement permits easy review of information on a group of drugs with similar activities and uses and allows the reader to determine quickly the similarities and differences among drugs within a group.

A *table of contents* precedes each major class of drugs (e.g., 8:00 Anti-infectives) in the book. The table of contents lists each drug monograph included in that major class according to the specific subclass (e.g., Cephalosporins 8:12.06). Within each subclass, monographs are arranged alphabetically by nonproprietary (generic) name and are preceded by the general statement, when present, for that subclass. The names of the drugs are the United States Adopted Names (USAN) and other names for drugs as described in *USAN and the USP Dictionary of Drug Names*.

Because of the unique arrangement of the book, information on a particular drug can be located by several methods. Information can be located via the Index by using any of the following index terms:

- proprietary (trade) name
- nonproprietary (generic) name
- synonym (e.g., British Approved Name [BAN])
- abbreviation (e.g., INH for isoniazid)
- pharmacy equivalent name (PEN) (e.g., co-triamterzide for hydrochlorothiazide and triamterene)
- former name (e.g., glyceryl guaiacolate for guaifenesin)

All *AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic classes*[®] of drugs (e.g., cephalosporins) are included as index terms; therefore, a specific class of drugs can be located by referring to the Index. Once the table of contents for a specific major class of drugs has been located, the page number for the beginning of each drug monograph is listed alongside the monograph title in the table; thus, you can quickly scan the list of drug monographs in a given subclass (e.g., cephalosporins) to locate a specific drug or drugs of interest. If you are already familiar with the *AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classification*[®], you occasionally may find that simply flipping through the book to the appropriate section is the easiest method for locating information. Whatever method best suits your needs, information can be located quickly and easily. Synonyms for drug classes (e.g., opioids for opiate agonists) and other cross-references for classes of drugs (e.g., ACE inhibitors) also are included.

Organization of Full-length Monographs

Information within each drug monograph is divided into the following sections and subsections:

- Monograph Title and Synonyms
- Introductory Description
- Uses
- Dosage and Administration
 - Reconstitution and Administration
 - Administration
 - Dosage
 - Dosage in Renal (and Hepatic) Impairment
- Cautions
 - Adverse Effects

- Precautions and Contraindications
- Pediatric Precautions
- Geriatric Precautions
- Mutagenicity and Carcinogenicity
- Pregnancy, Fertility, and Lactation
- Drug Interactions
- Laboratory Test Interferences
- Acute Toxicity
 - Pathogenesis
 - Manifestations
 - Treatment
- Chronic Toxicity
 - Pathogenesis
 - Manifestations
 - Treatment
- Pharmacology
- Mechanism of Action (for anti-infectives)
- Spectrum (for anti-infectives)
- Resistance (for anti-infectives)
- Pharmacokinetics
 - Absorption
 - Distribution
 - Elimination
- Chemistry and Stability
 - Chemistry
 - Stability
- Preparations

Not all sections or subsections are included in each monograph. The information is divided only when applicable and necessary. Other subsections not listed above also are used within Pharmacology, Uses, Cautions, and Dosage and Administration.

The presence or absence of a particular drug or use should *not* be interpreted as indicating any judgment by *AHFS Drug Information* on its merits.

Described below are the types of information that may be included in each major section and subsection within a monograph. Individual monographs may not contain all of the information described below, and the absence of specific information within an individual monograph does not imply that such information is unavailable.

Monograph Title and Synonyms

Lists the USAN name or other name for the drug(s) described. If multiple forms (e.g., salts, esters) of the same drug are available, all forms are described within the monograph; the title may include all forms (if only a few) or just the base. Occasionally, when several drug entities are described in a single monograph, an alternative title descriptive of the group (e.g., Antacids 56:04) is used. Common synonyms for the drug are listed alongside the USAN or other names. When a graphic formula of the drug or prototype (if multiple drugs) is present, it is in the style adopted by the USAN Council and United States Pharmacopeial Convention, also is included.

Occasionally, certain synonyms (e.g., pharmacy equivalent names [PENs]) that apply to specific preparations or combinations rather than to the drug itself are noted parenthetically alongside various preparation headings. (See the discussion on Preparations that follows.)

Introductory Description

Provides a brief chemical, structural, and/or pharmacologic/therapeutic description for the purpose of orientation and introduction.

Uses

Provides information on uses included in the labeling approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and those that are not (unlabeled [“off-label”] uses). Unlabeled uses are identified with daggers† within the text of the monograph; a footnote that describes the use as such appears at the end of the monograph. Comparisons with other forms of therapy and limitations on use are included when appropriate. This section usually is subdivided by major indication.

Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act, the labeling approved by FDA for a drug is limited to those uses for which the sponsor has submitted information regarding the safety and efficacy of that product and which information has been reviewed by the FDA; other uses for which the sponsor has chosen not to submit data to the FDA may be demonstrated in the clinical literature before and after the product is approved by FDA. The FD&C Act does not, however, limit the manner in which a clinician may use an approved drug. Once a drug has been approved for marketing, the clinician may prescribe it for uses or in treatment regimens or patient populations (e.g., children) that are not included in approved labeling. Such unlabeled uses may be appropriate and rational, and may reflect approaches to drug therapy that have been reported extensively in the medical literature. Valid new uses for drugs often are first discovered via serendipitous observations and therapeutic innovations, and then subsequently may be confirmed by well-designed and controlled studies. Inclusion of such new uses in the FDA-approved labeling for a drug may take considerable time and, without the initiative of the manufacturer whose product is involved, may never occur. Therefore, accepted medical practice (state-of-the-art) often includes drug use that is not included in FDA-approved labeling. Accordingly, *AHFS Drug Information*[®] monographs attempt to describe most uses for a drug, whether or not they are included in FDA-approved labeling. Coverage of unlabeled uses in *AHFS Drug Information*[®], an official drug compendium, has been recognized by the US Congress (e.g., in OBRA 90), third-party health-care providers, and others.

AHFS Drug Information[®] is the only remaining official drug compendium published by a non-commercial entity (i.e., by a tax-exempt [“nonprofit”] professional association). ASHP is an IRS 501(c)(6) tax exempt entity.

Drugs designated as orphan drugs by FDA and those otherwise considered as orphans are described. An orphan drug is one that is used for the treatment of a rare disease or condition that either occurs in fewer than 200,000 individuals in the US or is more prevalent but for which there is no reasonable expectation that the cost of developing and marketing the drug in the US for such disease or condition would be recovered from US sales.

Dosage and Administration

Includes information on reconstitution and administration of specific dosage forms and on dosage.

The Administration subsection describes the routes of administration and, when necessary for clarity, the appropriate dosage form for each route. Instructions for administering the drug (e.g., after meals, with food) and specialized methods of administration are given. Occasionally, instructions for extemporaneous preparation of a dosage form that is not commercially available (e.g., preparation of a pediatric oral suspension from the contents of capsules) are included. For injectable drugs or other dosage forms requiring reconstitution, the Administration subsection is replaced by the Reconstitution and Administration subsection. In addition to information described for the Administration subsection, instructions for reconstitution and, when applicable, further dilution of the dosage form are presented. The rate of injection or infusion of the drug is described, as well as any precautions associated with administration. Generally, compatibility and stability information is described under Chemistry and Stability.

The Dosage subsection describes recommended and alternative dosage schedules for each dosage form and route of administration, age of the patient, and condition being treated. Information in this subsection often is divided by use. When applicable, dosage equivalencies are described. The initial, maintenance, and maximum dosages are given. When available and applicable, specific dosages for children, geriatric or debilitated patients, or patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment are described. Occasionally, when use of a fixed-dosage combination preparation or concomitant use of the drug with another drug is considered rational, specific regimens may be described.

Cautions

Includes information about adverse effects, precautions and contraindications, pediatric precautions, mutagenicity and carcinogenicity, and pregnancy, fertility, and lactation.

Adverse reactions of a drug are undesirable effects, reasonably associated with use of the drug, that may occur as part of its pharmacologic action or may be unpredictable in occurrence. The general Adverse Effects subsection usually is replaced by multiple subsections that are specifically divided by body

system affected (e.g., GI, CNS, Hematologic) or by type of effect (e.g., Sensitivity Reactions).

The Precautions and Contraindications subsection includes any special care to be taken by practitioners and/or patients for safe and effective use of the drug and describes serious adverse effects and potential safety hazards, limitations on use imposed by them, and actions that should be taken if they occur. Those situations or conditions for which the drug should not be used because the risk clearly outweighs any possible benefit also are described. Additional precautions and contraindications are included in other appropriate sections of the drug monograph (e.g., Pediatric Precautions; Pregnancy, Fertility, and Lactation; Drug Interactions). Because precautionary information about a drug frequently changes, www.ahfsdruginformation.com (see the Preface for details) and/or the manufacturer's labeling should be reviewed periodically.

The Pediatric Precautions subsection describes those pediatric age groups for which safety and/or efficacy of the drug have not been established from adequate and well-controlled studies. Risks associated with use of the drug in pediatric age groups also are described.

The Geriatric Precautions subsection includes precautions, warnings, and contraindications associated with the drug in geriatric individuals and provides some perspective regarding study and experience in this population, including factors that may affect response and tolerance. Because of the relative lack of well-published, geriatric-specific information on many drugs and relative newness of FDA regulations requiring US drug manufacturers to specifically include such information in their labeling, a specific subsection for Geriatric Precautions within the Cautions section of *AHFS Drug Information* may be absent in a given monograph. In addition to the Geriatrics Precautions subsection, geriatric information also may be described within the appropriate major sections of the monograph. For example, information on age-dependent pharmacokinetics of the drug would be described within the Pharmacokinetics section and that on age-specific dosage recommendations would be described in the Dosage and Administration section of the monograph. When relevant information on use of the drug in geriatric patients is readily available in the medical literature and/or the drug is labeled specifically for use in this age group, details about efficacy generally are described in the Uses section.

The Mutagenicity and Carcinogenicity subsection describes data derived from long-term animal studies evaluating carcinogenic potential of the drug as well as data derived from in vitro tests of mutagenic potential. Pertinent evidence from human data regarding the mutagenic and/or carcinogenic potential of the drug also is included.

The Pregnancy, Fertility, and Lactation subsection describes the safety of the drug in pregnant and/or lactating women and any potential effects on male and female reproduction capacity. This information is provided only for drugs known to be absorbed systemically and which are subject to FDA regulation for pregnancy labeling. Precautionary information regarding use of the drug during pregnancy, as described in FDA's pregnancy categories A, B, C, D, and X, is included when available. Additional pertinent information regarding use of the drug during pregnancy also is presented. (See Overviews: Pregnancy Precautions for a description of the FDA categories.) A description of whether the drug is distributed into milk is included when available, and any associated precautions regarding use of the drug in lactating women are described. Effects of the drug on lactation and/or the nursing infant also are described. Evidence from animal studies regarding effects of the drug on fertility is given, and relevant advice regarding the importance of these animal findings is included when available. Pertinent evidence from humans regarding effects of the drug on fertility also is described.

Acute Toxicity

Describes toxic effects of the drug associated with intentional or accidental ingestion or administration of a large dose. Information on the amount of drug in a single dose that usually is associated with symptoms of overdosage and the amount of drug in a single dose that is likely to be life-threatening is included when available. Manifestations, symptoms, laboratory findings, and potential complications of acute overdosage are described. Plasma concentrations associated with toxicity are included when well described.

Recommendations for management of acute toxicity, including those for supportive and symptomatic treatment, are described.

Chronic Toxicity

Includes well-described toxic effects of the drug associated with prolonged use. When information on chronic toxicity is limited, it often is described in the appropriate subsection under Cautions. The pathogenesis, manifestations, and treatment of chronic toxic effects are discussed. Also included is a description of tolerance to and/or physical or psychologic dependence on the drug. Adverse effects associated with abrupt withdrawal of the drug are described, and appropriate measures for management are included.

Drug Interactions

Describes clinically important drug/drug and drug/food interactions, including adverse and therapeutically useful interactions. The mechanism of the interaction, associated clinical importance, precautions to be observed, and management of the interaction are described. Generally, potential interactions supported only by animal or in vitro data are not described. Occasionally, theoretical interactions are presented because of the likelihood of their occurrence (e.g., based on evidence from similar drugs) or the potential severity of the effect should it occur.

Laboratory Test Interferences

Includes information on common, well-established drug/laboratory test interferences. The mechanism of the interaction, effects on test results, and effects on interpretation of these results are included. Alternative laboratory tests are described when appropriate. Alterations in laboratory test results that reflect a pathologic effect of the drug (e.g., aminoglycoside-induced increase in serum creatinine concentration) are described in the appropriate subsections under Cautions. Because of the nature of information on laboratory tests, appropriate specialized references on laboratory methods should be consulted when detailed information is required.

Pharmacology

Includes a brief statement of pharmacologic activity and/or mechanism of action, often compared with other similar drugs, for the purpose of orientation and introduction. Expanded descriptions of all pharmacologic activities and effects are included. When relevant to human pharmacology and therapeutics, animal or in vitro data are presented. Data from human studies are not specified as such unless needed for clarification. Quantitative and qualitative comparative (with other drugs) information is provided when appropriate. Pharmacology usually is subdivided by pharmacologic effect (e.g., Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic) and/or body system affected (e.g., CNS, GI, Hematologic).

For anti-infectives, pharmacology is described under Mechanism of Action, Spectrum, and Resistance.

Mechanism of Action

Describes the mechanism of anti-infective activity for anti-infective agents.

Spectrum

Describes the in vitro spectra of activity of anti-infectives. The subsection on Susceptibility Testing describes factors (e.g., pH, test media, inoculum size) affecting susceptibility tests and defines susceptible and resistant organisms in terms of in vitro susceptibility test results (e.g., zone diameters for the Kirby-Bauer method, MICs for the tube dilution method). MIC values for clinically important organisms are included in the spectra subsections. Spectra often are divided according to class of organism (e.g., Gram-negative Bacteria, Anaerobic Bacteria).

In general, nomenclature for microorganisms follows that presented in the current edition of *Bergey's Manual of Systematic and Evolutionary Bacteriology* and the "Approved Lists of Bacterial Names" published in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*. Other standard sources, as described by the American Society for Microbiology in the January issue of *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, also are used. When available, in vitro susceptibility information generally is described according to the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) and/or the manufacturer's labeling.

Resistance

Describes the mechanism of resistance of microorganisms to anti-infective agents. Microbiologic tolerance to these agents also is described. Information on cross-resistance with other anti-infective agents is included. Definition of resistance in terms of in vitro susceptibility test results is described in the Spectrum section. Descriptions of resistant organisms are included in the spectra subsections of Spectrum.

Resistance of cells to antineoplastic agents generally is described in the Pharmacology section. Resistance or tolerance to the pharmacologic and/or therapeutic effects (e.g., tachyphylaxis) of other drugs generally is described in Pharmacology and/or Uses. Tolerance to the pharmacologic effects of some drugs (e.g., opiate agonists) also may be described in the Chronic Toxicity section.

Pharmacokinetics

Describes absorption, distribution, and elimination (biotransformation and excretion) characteristics of a drug.

The Absorption subsection includes information on extent (bioavailability) and rate of absorption by usual routes of administration and factors (e.g., product formulation) that might influence them. Applicable comparative information on doses, dosage forms, and routes of administration is included. Information on serum concentrations achieved and on the period of time for onset, peak, and duration of pharmacologic and/or therapeutic effect also is included, even when an absorption phase per se does not occur (e.g., following IV administration). Ranges for therapeutic and/or toxic concentrations (e.g., plasma, serum) of the drug are described when established.

The Distribution subsection describes the usual distribution of the drug into body tissue and fluids. Information describing the drug's propensity to cross the blood-brain barrier and placenta and to distribute into milk is included. Protein binding characteristics are presented.

The Elimination subsection describes the biotransformation and excretory characteristics of the drug. Information on elimination half-life and factors influencing it, clearance, site and extent of biotransformation, metabolic products and their activities, and routes of elimination from the body (e.g., urine, feces via bile) and factors affecting them is included. The effect of peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis on elimination of the drug also is discussed.

Chemistry and Stability

Includes a brief chemical, structural, and/or pharmacologic description, often compared with other similar drugs, for the purpose of orientation and introduction. Structure-activity relationships are described when applicable. A physical description of all drug entities includes physical appearance, taste, odor, and solubility. Solubilities are described according to USP descriptive terms (see the current edition of the *United States Pharmacopeia*) or as appropriate specific solubilities (i.e., amount of solute per volume of solvent).

If the drug is ionizable, the pK_a is given. Other chemical and/or physical constants such as pH and osmolarity/osmolality of commercially available preparations are included. Preservatives and other important excipients in a commercial preparation also are described. Dosage equivalencies (e.g., units per mg of drug, mg of base per mg of salt) are given when the dosage of a drug differs from the commercially available form (e.g., salt, ester). Amounts of important ions (e.g., mg/mEq of potassium, sodium) in commercial preparations also are included.

Applicable stability information such as the effect of pH, autoclaving, heat, light, moisture, air, freezing, and microwave thawing is described. Storage requirements (i.e., recommended environmental storage conditions) also are described. Stability information about reconstituted and/or diluted preparations is provided. Physical and/or chemical compatibility information may be included. Additional detailed compatibility information on injectable drugs is available in the *Handbook on Injectable Drugs* (available from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; go to www.ashp.org for details).

Preparations

Lists commercially available preparations of the drug. Preparations are described under the appropriate heading by USAN or other nonproprietary (generic) name. Combination preparations are described under a separate heading (e.g., Aspirin Combinations) following the appropriate single-entity subsection (e.g., Aspirin). Preparations are listed hierarchically by route of administration (alphabetically), dosage form (alphabetically), and strength (in order of increasing strength). When potency is described in terms other than those listed in the drug heading (e.g., potency of cefotaxime sodium is expressed in terms of cefotaxime), the labeled moiety is described parenthetically after the strength [e.g., 1 g (of cefotaxime)]. Route of administration and dosage form listings may be modified (e.g., Injection, for IM use only; Tablets, chewable; Capsules, extended-release). Following each preparation description, the proprietary (trade) names are listed alphabetically and include the corresponding manufacturers. Generally, multiple-source preparations that are available by nonproprietary (generic) name do not include the manufacturers/labelers; these preparations are described as being "available by nonproprietary name." Important excipients (e.g., preservatives, tartrazine, sulfites) contained in the preparation or additional descriptive information about the preparation (e.g., alcohol content) may be included parenthetically following the proprietary (trade) name.

When established by USP, pharmacy equivalent names (PENs) (e.g., co-careldopa for levodopa and carbidopa) are listed parenthetically alongside the corresponding combination heading. PENs are short and simple names that can be used for convenience by practitioners when it would be impractical to use the complete nonproprietary combination name. PENs are informational rather than official (USP/NF), but are offered by USP as standardized terms intended to discourage the proliferation of trivial names and undefined abbreviations for

combinations. This abbreviated nomenclature was pioneered by the British Pharmacopoeia (BP) and subsequently adopted by USP. Generally, dosage forms used in the Preparations sections are the pharmaceutical dosage forms described in USP. (See the current edition of the *United States Pharmacopeia*.) Several dosage forms (i.e., elixir, extract, fluidextract, spirit, tincture) are used only when the preparation is official (USP or NF). Solution generally is used to describe all liquid preparations of dissolved drug, regardless of solvent; although syrups occasionally are official (USP or NF), these are listed as solutions and syrup is included only as part of the proprietary name.

Applicable legal descriptions (e.g., drugs subject to control under the Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970) are included.

References

Includes the bibliography for cited references. Information included in *AHFS Drug Information* is thoroughly referenced. Although the print version of *AHFS Drug Information* does not include reference notations, all statements appearing in the publication are documented. Access to referenced statements and the References section of individual drug monographs can be gained through electronic versions (e.g., CD-ROM, on-line, intranet versions of AHFSfirstWeb™ and *Drug Information Fulltext*® [DIF®], ePocrates Rx Online™ + AHFS DI®, AHFS DI® Powered by Skyscape) of the publication. Reference citations currently are accessible for all monographs published originally after March 1984. For monographs originally published prior to that time, bibliographic citations are accessible only for selected revisions occurring since 1984, if such notations could be incorporated easily into the electronic file.

To determine whether a monograph was published originally after March 1984, see the copyright notice at the end of the monograph in question. If the original copyright in the respective monograph is April 1984 or later, a completely referenced version of the information will be accessible through the electronic versions of *AHFS Drug Information*. For monographs with older original copyrights, documentation for many of the statements also can be accessed through electronic media. In electronic versions of *AHFS Drug Information* (e.g., in AHFSfirstWeb™, in DIF®), approximately 80% of the monographs currently are completely or partially referenced, with approximately 60% of these being completely referenced.

For additional information on searching the electronic versions of *AHFS Drug Information*, contact the eHealth Solutions Division in the Publications and Drug Information Systems Office of ASHP by phone at 301-657-3000 or by FAX at 301-664-8857 or by email at pdiso@ashp.org.

AHFSfirstReleases™

Certain monographs in *AHFS Drug Information*® are designated as AHFSfirstReleases™. This designation appears in a boldface footnote preceding the Preparations section of the monograph. The AHFSfirstReleases™ disseminate timely information on new molecular entities (NMEs) in a expedited, concise format as soon as possible after FDA approval; the principal limitation is availability of final labeling from the manufacturer. AHFSfirstReleases™ are provided to current *AHFS Drug Information* subscribers via the Web at <http://www.ahfsdruginformation.com> (see the Preface for details) and are posted throughout the year as drugs are approved. AHFSfirstReleases™ are not available as a separate subscription service.

■ Scope

AHFSfirstReleases™ are concise descriptions about new molecular entities that include information drawn principally from the manufacturer's labeling (package insert); however, the descriptions are not intended to be comprehensive. When additional information on such drugs is needed before publication of a more detailed (overview or full-length) *AHFS Drug Information* monograph, the manufacturer's labeling should be consulted.

AHFSfirstReleases™ are intended to provide subscribers to *AHFS Drug Information* with concise descriptions on new molecular entities that can answer typical basic questions about newly approved drugs. As such, the descriptions are limited to only basic information on the drugs, including brief introductory descriptions (chemical and pharmacologic) of the type of drug, its labeled uses and associated dosages, product availability, and contraindications. As a result, the AHFSfirstReleases™ do not provide full disclosure about the respective drugs, and therefore it is essential that the manufacturer's labeling be consulted for more detailed information on usual cautions, precautions, contraindications, potential drug interactions, laboratory test interferences, and acute toxicity.

■ Publication Frequency

The AHFSfirstReleases™ disseminated via the Web through the course of 2008 will be issued intermittently as soon as possible after the manufacturer's labeling has been finalized. Because there is no set schedule for new drug approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the publication fre-

quency of these initial releases also is not set but instead is determined by FDA's final approval of labeling for a given new molecular entity (NME).

■ Deletion

During the course of 2008, some AHFSfirstReleases™ may be replaced by Overviews or full-length monographs on the Web at <http://www.ahfsdruginformation.com>. When this occurs, the respective AHFSfirstReleases™ should be considered obsolete.

At the end of the subscription year, any AHFSfirstReleases™ that have not been replaced by Overviews or full-length drug monographs will become incorporated into the upcoming annual edition of *AHFS Drug Information* within the appropriate AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic class®. Once the next annual edition has been issued, any remaining AHFSfirstReleases™ issued during the previous subscription year will be removed from the Web site since revisions may have occurred during production of the annual edition. Such revised AHFSfirstReleases™ carry the statement "Selected Revisions January 2008" or some other appropriate revision date in the Copyright notice at the end of the monograph.

Overviews

Certain monographs in *AHFS Drug Information*® are designated as Overviews. This designation appears in a boldface footnote preceding the Preparations section of the monograph. Overviews often first appear as electronic updates, which are posted throughout the year at www.ahfsdruginformation.com (see the Preface for Details) and are accessible to all subscribers of the printed *AHFS Drug Information*. Subsequently, the Overviews become incorporated into the next edition of *AHFS Drug Information*®, pending development of a full-length monograph on the drug.

■ Scope

The Overviews are summary descriptions about new molecular entities (NMEs) that include information drawn principally from the manufacturer's labeling (package insert). Pertinent information from other sources such as authoritative therapeutic guidelines, secondary references (e.g., review articles), and a limited number of primary references (e.g., the principal clinical studies) also may be included; however, the overviews are not intended to be comprehensive. When additional information on such drugs is needed before publication of a more detailed (full-length) *AHFS Drug Information* monograph, the manufacturer's labeling should be consulted.

The Overviews are intended to provide subscribers to *AHFS Drug Information* with summaries on new molecular entities that can answer most common questions about these drugs. As such, the Overviews are limited to only basic information on the drugs, including brief descriptions (chemical and pharmacologic) of the type of drug, its labeled uses and associated dosages, product availability, selected cautionary information (e.g., warnings, major toxicities, sensitivity reactions, general precautions, specific populations, common adverse effects) and drug interactions, and important advice for patients. While selected precautionary information appears in these summaries, the scope of the overview format limits the extent of discussion. As a result, the Overviews do not provide full disclosure about the respective drugs, and therefore it is essential that the manufacturer's labeling be consulted for more detailed information on usual cautions, precautions, contraindications, potential drug interactions, laboratory test interferences, and acute toxicity.

■ Deletion

During the course of 2008, some new drug Overviews may be replaced by full-length monographs on the Web at <http://www.ahfsdruginformation.com>. When this occurs, the respective Overview should be considered obsolete.

At the end of the subscription year, any Overviews that have not been replaced by full-length drug monographs will become incorporated into the upcoming annual edition of *AHFS Drug Information* within the appropriate AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic class®. Once the next annual edition has been issued, any remaining Overviews will be removed from the Web site since revisions may have occurred during production of the annual edition. Such revised Overviews carry the statement "Selected Revisions January 2008" or some other appropriate revision date in the Copyright notice at the end of the monograph.

■ Pregnancy Precautions

The pregnancy precautions in the Overviews follow FDA's lettered categories (A, B, C, D, or X), as stated in the manufacturer's labeling. Because of the summary format of the Overviews, only the letter designation usually appears. Following are definitions of the categories:

Category A

Adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women have failed to demonstrate a risk to the fetus in the first trimester and there is no evidence of risk in later trimesters. If the drug were used during pregnancy, the possibility of fetal harm appears remote.

Category B

Either animal reproduction studies have failed to demonstrate a risk to the fetus and there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women or animal reproduction studies have shown an adverse effect (other than on fertility) but adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women have failed to demonstrate a risk to the fetus in the first trimester and there is no evidence of risk in later trimesters. In either case, the drug should be used during pregnancy only when clearly needed.

Category C

Either animal reproduction studies have revealed evidence of an adverse fetal effect and there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women or animal reproduction studies have not been performed and it is not known whether the drug can cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women. In the first case, the drug should be used during pregnancy only when the potential benefits justify the possible risks to the fetus. In the latter case, the drug should be used during pregnancy only when clearly needed.

Category D

There is positive evidence of human fetal risk based on adverse reaction data from investigational or postmarketing experience or studies in humans, but the potential benefits from use of the drug in pregnant women may be acceptable in certain conditions despite the possible risks to the fetus. The drug should be used during pregnancy only in life-threatening situations or severe disease for which safer drugs cannot be used or are ineffective. When the drug is administered during pregnancy or if the patient becomes pregnant while receiving the drug, the patient should be informed of the potential hazard to the fetus.

Category X

The drug may (can) cause fetal toxicity when administered to pregnant women based on animal or human studies demonstrating fetal abnormalities or positive evidence of human fetal risk from adverse reaction data from investigational or postmarketing experience, or both, and the risk of use of the drug during pregnancy clearly outweighs any benefit (e.g., safer drugs or alternative therapies are available). Since the risks clearly outweigh any possible benefits in women who are or may become pregnant, the drug is contraindicated in such women. If the drug is inadvertently administered during pregnancy or if the patient becomes pregnant while receiving the drug, the patient should be informed of the potential hazard to the fetus.

■ Notices

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Other Notices

For other notices of warning, see Notices on p. viii of the master volume issued in January of each year.

■ SumMons®

Certain monographs in *AHFS Drug Information*® are designated as SumMons® (summary monographs). This designation appears in a boldface footnote preceding the Preparations section of the monograph. SumMons® are summary descriptions about the respective drug, which include information that is drawn principally from the manufacturer’s labeling (package insert) and/or other pertinent information (such as secondary references [e.g., review articles] and a limited number of primary references [e.g., the principal clinical studies]); however, no attempt is made to be complete, and the information may *not* be evaluative. When additional information on such drugs is needed pending development and publication of a more detailed (full-length) *AHFS Drug Information*® monograph, the manufacturer’s labeling should be consulted.

The summaries are intended to provide only basic information on the drugs, and therefore are limited to brief descriptions (chemical and pharmacologic) of the type of drug, its labeled uses and associated dosages, and product availability. While selected precautionary information occasionally may appear in these summaries, no attempt is made to be complete, and therefore it is *essential* that the labeling be consulted for detailed information on the usual cautions, precautions, and contraindications. Some SumMons® have been expanded to include a detailed Cautions section, but it remains *essential* that the labeling be consulted for information on potential drug interactions, laboratory test interferences, and acute toxicity for such expanded descriptions. Some SumMons® also have been expanded to include important “unlabeled/off-label” uses.

†Use is not currently included in the labeling approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.