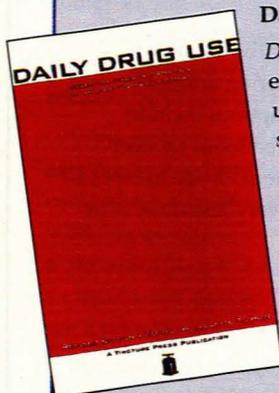




BOOK MANAGERS CHOICE



Daily Drug Use* Edited by Leesette Turner. 2001. 629 pp. Tincture Press. R225 (including postage).

Daily Drug Use has proudly been serving health professionals since it was first introduced in 1981. The latest edition is a useful, quick, and authoritatively referenced handbook, providing invaluable advice on the safe use of drugs. It aims to provide the busy health professional with a prescription dilemma, with quick summarised versions of the most important facts about particular drugs. *Daily Drug Use* is not intended to replace existing alternative references such as *SAMF*, and is not a formulary.

In the main body of the text, the drug order within chapters meets international coding requirements. Drug information is organised according to generic name. Where possible, all generics (including their synonyms) are listed together with most of the related trade names on the local market. New chapters include an introduction to the principles of homeopathy and complementary medicines; detailed information on the administration of IM and IV antibiotics; calculation and conversion information; information on post-exposure prophylaxis; the main laboratory tests explained in brief; substance abuse; and drugs in sport.

Book titles marked* may be ordered directly from SAMA Health and Medical Publishing Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 530-6520, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail publishing@samedical.org or jstrydom@samedical.org.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.

ABO-incompatible Kidney Transplantation. * By Kota Takahashi. Pp. xvii + 154. Illustrated. US\$79/EUR79. Elsevier. 2001. ISBN 0-444-50543-1.

Cancer Chemotherapy and Biological Response Modifiers. * Annual 19. Edited by G Giaccone, R Schilsky and P Sondel. Pp. xvii + 730. US\$182/EUR182. Elsevier. 2001. ISBN 0-444-50561-X.

Side-effects of Drugs. * Annual 24. Edited by JK Aronson. Pp. xxxiv + 620. US\$205/EUR205. Elsevier. 2001.

ISBN 0-444-50512-1.

Fatigue and Cancer.* Scientific Updates 5. European School of Oncology. Edited by M Marty and S Pecorelli. Series Editors: U Veronesi & MS Aapro. Pp. x + 218. US\$73/EUR73. Elsevier. 2001. ISBN 0-444-50905-4.

Anaemia in Cancer. * Scientific Updates 6. European School of Oncology. Edited by C Bokemeyer and H Ludwig. Series Editors: U Veronesi & MS Aapro. Pp. viii + 227. US\$73/EUR73. Elsevier. 2001. ISBN 0-444-50904-6.

CLINICAL EVIDENCE*

Issue 6. A compendium of the best available evidence for effective health care. (including a CD-ROM or on-line access) BMJ, Pp. xxiii+ 1423. £75. BMJ. 2001. ISBN 0-7279-1509-6.

This weighty tome and accompanying CD-ROM are designed to save the clinician the time, effort, and frustration of trying to keep up to date with the ever-expanding medical literature. Each chapter summarises the current state of knowledge, as well as any uncertainty about the prevention and treatment of clinical conditions. It is neither a textbook nor a book of guidelines, rather an aid to clinical decision-making.

The content covers important clinical conditions seen in both primary and hospital care, but is lacking in some aspects of health care relevant to developing countries. Chapters are

arranged according to health topics with every chapter beginning with a useful summary page presenting the questions addressed, some key messages and a list of interventions categorised according to whether they have been found to be effective.

All information is concise and simple language has been used throughout. However, the book does assume a basic knowledge of systematic review and randomised controlled trial methodology which may be confusing for some readers.

GPs will find the book a useful resource for quick reference. There are excellent chapters on back and neck pain, depression, and a good overview of interventions for preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission. Those interventions which are not covered, or for which evidence of effectiveness is lacking, generally reflect the paucity of research in an area rather than a limitation of the book itself.

In addition to the book, the annual subscription allows on-line access which includes regular updates and additions throughout the year. Unfortunately, the high price makes the book unaffordable to many practitioners and will certainly exclude medical students. However, those who do purchase it will use it on a daily basis. A pocket version is in the pipeline and will be a welcome addition.

Nandi Siegfried