



RxFiles Academic Detailing and Drug Comparison Chart Book

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What it is

RxFiles publishes a Drug Comparison Chart Book. The growing list of drug tables supplement an academic detailing service which seeks to provide physicians with objective, comparative drug information. This becomes a unique tool to assist in making the drug therapy decisions. The **6th Edition book (2007)** is 100 pages and addresses over 55 drug therapy areas (e.g. hypertension, lipids, antithrombotics, acne, diabetes, weight loss, pain, gastrointestinal, migraine, contraception, herbal concerns, depression, insomnia, asthma, cannabinoids). The RxFiles does NOT receive industry funding and operates with an arms-length grant from Saskatchewan Health. The effort to continually develop and update the charts is supported, in part, through book sales.

Availability of Materials

RxFiles newsletters, Q&As, Trial Summaries and Topic Links are available free from the website www.RxFiles.ca. The drug comparison charts tool are available for sale from www.RxFiles.ca as well as from several book stores including the CMA online store. Most current versions of select drug comparison charts can be obtained upon request for teaching purposes.

Putting the book together

An RxFiles chart begins with family physician, specialist and pharmacist input on information needs and practice gaps. An extensive review of the literature by RxFiles pharmacists provides the foundation for incorporating evidence and information relevant to prescribing decisions. The review looks to systematic reviews (e.g. Cochrane, CADTH, etc.), original landmark trials, clinical practice guidelines, and many other information sources. An emphasis is placed on noting important clinical outcomes (e.g. heart events and death), risk-benefit assessment, patient safety and cost considerations. This information is then summarized, often on one page, and details the differences, advantages, disadvantages and useful drug therapy prescribing “pearls”. Family physician and specialist input are obtained both in chart development and updating.

How to access the book

The book comes in both standard (large) and pocket editions. An order form is available online at www.RxFiles.ca. Books may also be purchased at select university book stores, or from the CMA Online Store. {Cover price: \$49; bulk pricing available to organizations/groups on orders of 12 or more.}

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