

New Publications

Understanding Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians

By Mary Ann Stuhan PharmD RPh. Published by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, MD, 2013. ISBN 978-1-58528-229-6. Paper-bound, xiv + 801 pp. (27.5 × 21.5 cm), \$67. www.ashp.org

Therapeutic Area: This reference is intended for learners interested in obtaining a baseline understanding of the pharmacology of medications commonly used in pharmacy practice.

Format: Softcover book with approximately 780 pages. There is excellent use of tables, graphics, and highlighting throughout the book.

Audience: This reference is intended for pharmacy technicians pursuing advanced training or certification and pharmacy students in the early years of their curriculum. It may also be useful for students entering other health professions who wish to learn more about pharmacology.

Purpose: The reference is a concise yet comprehensive reference for individuals learning about how medications work in the body.

Content: The book is divided into 12 parts organized by body system. Each part is broken down further into chapters that represent a specific therapeutic area. The components within the chapter include learning objectives, key terms and definitions, case studies, thorough review of the disease state or system, practical tips, patient safety alerts, clear graphics, a complete description of the pharmacology, medication tables, review questions, and references and resources for additional information. The information is presented in an organized and logical sequence. The text itself strikes a nice balance between describing the complexities of the medications and using language a new learner can understand.

Usability: The material is up-to-date and ideal for learning purposes. It should not be the final resource for product information (ie, checking doses or available dosage forms). The pricing is appropriate for a required course textbook.

Highlights: One of the best features of this product is the use of cases and practical tips. Rather than limiting the information to the science of how medications work, the writing team linked the science to relevant patient care or real-life situations. This is helpful for learners to understand the applicability of the information.

Limitations: Although online resources are available, including PowerPoint slides and flashcards for terminology, it would also be helpful to include self-assessment questions within the book or online or links to website resources for additional information. An electronic version of the book is not available.

Comparison with Other Related Books or Products:

A course director selecting a textbook about pharmacology for technicians has multiple options, including this resource. Variables to consider when selecting a text include readability, learning tools (eg, cases, self-assessment questions), electronic versus print availability, resources for instructors, and additional online resources. This text is priced similarly to related books.

Reviewer's Summary: Overall, this is a comprehensive resource for prepharmacy students, pharmacy technicians, and students of other health professions learning about the pharmacology of medications. The organization and readability of the text are advantages that will likely have an impact on its effectiveness as a learning resource. I would recommend it as a resource for a specific course, as a tool for independent study, and as a library resource for students of relevant health professions.

Reviewer: Susan P Bruce PharmD BCPS, Professor and Chair, Pharmacy Practice, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Rootstown, OH

Conflict of interest: Author reported none

BOOKS RECEIVED

The APhA Complete Review for Pharmacy, 10th Edition.

Edited by Dick R Gourley PharmD FAPhA, James C Eoff III PharmD. Published by American Pharmacists Association, Washington, DC, 2013. ISBN 978-1-58212-176-5. Paperbound, xxii + 1053 pp. (28 × 21.5 cm), \$66.95. www.pharmacist.com

Basic Concepts in Medicinal Chemistry. By Marc W Harrold BS Pharm PhD, Robin M Zavod PhD. Published by American Society of Health Pharmacists, Bethesda, MD, 2013. ISBN 978-1-58528-266-1. Paperbound, x + 440 (25.5 × 18 cm), \$49. www.ashp.org

Drug Information Handbook: A Comprehensive Resource for All Clinicians and Healthcare Professionals. Published by Lexi-Comp, Inc., Hudson, OH, 2013. ISBN 978-1-59195-319-7. Paperbound, 2193 pp. (23 × 15.5 cm), \$69.95. www.lexi.com

Stockley's Drug Interactions, 10th Edition. Edited by Karen Baxter and Claire L Preston. Published by Pharmaceutical Press, London, UK, 2013. ISBN 978-0-85711-061-9. Clothbound, vii + 1672 pp. (28.5 × 22.5), \$275. www.pharmpress.com

Stockley's Herbal Medicines Interactions, Second Edition. Edited by Elizabeth Williamson BSc PhD MRPharmS FLS, Samuel Driver BSc, Karen Baxter BSc MSc MRPharmS. Published by Pharmaceutical Press, London, UK, 2013. ISBN 978-0-85711-026-8. Clothbound, x + 512 pp. (25.5 × 19.5 cm), \$99. www.pharmpress.com