

OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR

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Subject: AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

DRUG INFORMATION ON WARDS

Western Australian Drugs and Therapeutics Committee recommends that:-

HEALTH SERVICES SHOULD PROVIDE A CURRENT VERSION OF THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK FOR USE BY PRESCRIBERS AND STAFF AT EACH HOSPITAL WARD STATION.

RATIONALE

1. Provision of unbiased drug information at ward level of Health Services throughout Western Australia is highly desirable as a determinant of safe, effective and economic prescribing.
2. WADTC recommends the Australian Medicines Handbook for general drug information required by both medical and nursing staff, for the following reasons:
 - a) The information provided reflects current best practice specifically developed and appropriate for the Australian health system;
 - b) Medicines approved and available for use in Australia are listed according to drug name and therapeutic area of use, including comparative information on similar drugs;
 - c) Entries contain information on non-registered indications supported by the medical literature;
 - d) The publication provides essential information succinctly, is well indexed and user-friendly;
 - e) The Australian Medicines Handbook is available on CD-ROM or as a book.
 - f) AMH Online provides additional information, updates and ordering on the internet via <http://www.amh.net.au>

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