Once again our drug comparison charts have been updated & expanded. Here are the highlights.

**Selected Revisions**

**ANTIPLATELET & ANTITHROMBOTIC CHART**
- PROFESS demonstrates AGGRENOX is similar to PLAVIX
- ACTIVE A & W: PLAVIX & ASA; vs ASA or warfarin alone; combo less effective than warfarin yet similar bleeding
- New drugs: dabigatran PRADAX, rivaroxaban XARELTO
- ASA pre-op considerations; to stop ASA or continue pre-op

**LIPID CHART**
- EZETROL uncertainty re. efficacy & cancer SEAS
- CRESTOR shows benefit for 1st prevention with hsCRP JUPITER
- Fenofibrate no 1st benefit when added to simvastatin 40mg ACCORD-Lipid

**DIABETES CHARTS**
- Incorporate new CDA guidelines Sept 2008, ADA 2010
- Added JANUVIA, ONGLYZA & VICTOZA to chart
- TZD concerns: HF, weight & fractures DREAM, ADOPT
- hsCRP to mortality concern with aggressive A1C lowering ACCORD
- Managing hypoglycemia, sick days, exercise, SMBG...
- New insulin considerations: Detemir LEVEMIR, Glargine LANTUS

**SMOKING CESSATION CHART**
- Added varenicline CHAMPIX with note of both potential advantages and uncertainties.

**Aspirin: Primary Prevention**

Carefully assess bleeding risk vs cardiovascular benefit in primary prevention of cardiovascular events. The USPSTF 2009 suggests the use of aspirin in males to MI between the ages of 45-79yr, & in females to MI between the ages of 55-79yr. The AAA, IPAD & POPADAD trials have shown disappointing results for aspirin in the area of diabetes & peripheral arterial disease. The use of aspirin for secondary prevention has strong evidence for benefit.

**New Charts - 14 in all**
- Glucose Self Monitoring (SMBG) & Meters
- Insulin Delivery Devices: Pens
- Thyroid: Hypo & Hyperthyroid
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Adult Vaccine Chart
- Antifungal Treatment Chart
- Anti-infectives for Common Infections
- Osteoporosis Treatment Chart
- CKD: Trials, Erythropoetin, Iron
- Phosphate Binders Chart
- Substance Abuse Chart
- Transplantation Chart

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**New Drug Additions**


**Scanning Through The Charts**

- Antihypertensives – updated guidelines 2010 Canadian
- Anti-infectives: viral acute sinusitis & bronchitis
- Community Acquired Pneumonia: added guidelines p 62
- NSAID/COXIB: Systematic review of CV risk p 69
- Opioid Chart: new fentanyl 12ug patch; ZYTAM
- Oral Contraceptive: YAZ, generics & missed pills p 87
- OTC: new cough guidelines; strengthen warning regarding cough/cold products in age <6yrs p 94, probiotic comments p 56 & p 95, updated Vit B12 & calcium info p 97

**Herbal / Drug Interactions Chart:**

- WebLink www.mskcc.org/aboutherbs plus updated info for Co-enzyme Q10, ginseng, glucosamine, green tea, saw palmetto & St John’s wort. (See also Weight-loss Herb Chart!)

**New herb symbols:**  Likely safe &  Possibly safe p 92-93

**Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) - Page 41**
- Rabeprazole PARLET 2x10mg od or 20mg od $37 ▼
- Omeprazole Apo-omeprazole 20mg od $43 ▼ (New: generic lansoprazole $57 & pantoprazole $57)

**Atypical Antipsychotics – HS, Low Dosing – Page 108**
- Quetiapine SEROQUEL 25-50mg hs $19-30
- Risperidone RISPERDAL 0.5-1mg hs $22-27
- Olanzapine ZYPREXA 2.5-5mg hs $37-66 ▼

**Substantially REDUCED Saskatchewan Formulary Cost**
- Alesse generic=Aviane & Min-Ovral generic=Portia $170
- amldipine generic Norvasc 10mg od $75 → $35
- diltiazem generic Tiazac 300mg od $75 → $44
- fentanyl generic Fentanyl 25ug patch q3day $130 → $72 ▼
- pramipexole generic Mirapex 1mg tid $230 → $133
- ramipril generic Ramipril 10mg od $43 → $29
- quetiapine generic Seroquel 600mg po hs $277 → $185
- ranitidine generic 150mg po bid $27 → $20
- risperidone generic Risperidone 2mg po bid $180 → $87
- ropinirole generic Requip 2mg tid $141 → $69
- sumatriptan generic Imitrex 50mg po 3x/day $113 → $67 ▼
- venlafaxine generic Venlafaxine XR 150mg XR od $76 → $48
- Also: Dipirenone glycol, nifedipine XL, pioglitazone & voriconazole

**Substantially INCREASED Saskatchewan Formulary Cost**
- adapalene, Bacitrac susp, BCP’s, Benzamycin, cephalaxin susp, diclofenac SR, Enbrel, Estrogel, flunisolide, Humira, hydralazine, labetolol, mafenamic acid, oxcarbazepine, Prometrium, Remicade, Tysabri & Vagifem.
Check out our new website for new & updated postings!

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Recent Adverse Reaction Advisories
• Abacavir: potential risk of increased cardiac events
• ADHD meds: rare cardiac & psychiatric adverse events
• All internet counterfeit versions may contain sibutramine
• Benzodiazepines: sleep related behaviour changes
• Bupropion & Varenicline: potential suicide risk
• Carbamazepine: ↑ Skin SE SIS,TEN in Asians with HLA-B*1502
• Ceftriaxone: fatal calcium precipitates in lung & kidneys
• Desmopressin: intranasal forms - fatal hyponatremia in kids
• Herbal products: some adulterated with sibutramine for weight, sildenafil for erectile dysfunction & benzodiazepines for sleep
• Lamictal: ↑ Risk of non-symptomatic oral clefts
• Modafinil: severe skin reactions SIS,TEN & hypersensitivity
• Natalizumab: hypersensitivity, liver injury & PML cases
• Oralistat: cases of ↑ LFT’s
• Roloxifene: ↑ risk of stroke mortality from the Ruth trial
• Remicade: possible hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma in kids
• Rituximab: reports of PML- Progressive Multifocal Leukenoencephalopathy
• Rosiglitazone: ↑ cardiac concerns (↑MI & heart failure)
• Sibutramine: ↑ cardiovascular risk
• Sitagliptin: potential for pancreatitis
• Stalevo: potential ↑ prostate cancer risk
• Tamiflu: hallucinations & abnormal behaviour including self harm
• TNF agents: potential risk of increased cancer
• Zid: blood dyscrasias (eg. with Poli-Grip)
• Zypraxa: ↑ weight & lipids in kids

Outcome Evidence from MAJOR Trials
Major outcome trials & dosages used are often noted on charts when available. Caution-small print!

Recent: Bafta, Profess, Rely, Active A & W (p. 10-11), I-Preserve (p. 13), Aurora, Astronomer, Enhance, Jupiter (p.15), Accord, Advance & Proactive (p. 25 & 30), Nice-Sugar (p. 29), Navigator, VADT (p. 30), Horizon (p. 72), Balance (p. 102), Inspire & Torch (p. 113), & Treat (p. 119).

From the Archives...A Little RxFiles Chart History
RxFiles is celebrating 13+ years of academic detailing in Saskatchewan. Our first newsletters were supplemented by a drug comparison chart. These charts were soon to be found posted on physician’s walls and showing up in MD & PharmD required reading packages. We found that they allowed a lot of latitude for broad discussion of almost any drug question that could come up in an academic detailing visit. Although the charts push the margins of page protocol, many who learn to use seem to like them. Although they’re not for everyone, we hope you... Enjoy the charts!! TBC

See also RxFiles Overview/Perspectives
In the book or check it out online at:

Status/Modifications/Reimbursement Changes:
On Saskatchewan formulary: Bisoprol, Concerta, Nuvaring & Yaz.
New EDS = generics (for clozapine, fentanyl patch), Actelon 150mg, Advagraft, Atipila, Cymbalta, Enable, Insuff, Levcrom, Leukor, Lyrica, pantoprazole, rabeprazole, Strattera, Trosec & Viscare.
New generics = alemtuzumab 30mg tab, Alphagan P, amiodarone, azithromycin, bupropion, diltiazem, enalapril, etodolac, felodipine, feny, Profens, Cpra & Tostrenol, ibuprofen, levofoxacin, memantine, nortriparp, olanzapone, pantoprazole, pioglitazone, raloxifene, ramipril, risperidone, rivastigmine, ropinidine, sumatriptan, testosterone, topiramate, Tracemat & venlafaxine.
New full NIH B = Altace HCT, Alvesco, Aviane, Axert, bisoprolol, Caduet, carvedilol, Chomip, Darunavir, DAVAP 200, Lesico 80mg, Omeprazole, Portia, Remeron, Revazat, Risperidal M-tabs, selegline, tamsulosin & Xatral.

8th Edition Quiz Answers in the RxFiles Charts
1. What is the most effective antifungal agent for treating Tinea pedis? p 51
   a) tolnaftate b) terbinafine c) clotrimazole
2. Which oral iron salt contains the highest % of elemental iron? p 121
3. What is the new approved FDA acute treatment dose for colchicine? p 68
4. Based on the FRAX assessment tool, would the following patient be at a low, moderate-, or high-risk of fracture: p 73
   -58-year old female; 52kg; 156cm; non-smoker; NO fracture, corticoid, or arthritis history; no-drinker; T-score = -2.9
5. Anemia: what hemoglobin level must be sustained before using an erythropoiesis stimulating agent? p 120 ∠90g/L ≤100g/L c)130g/L
6. Can propylthiouracil be used to treat hyperthyroidism in patients with liver disease? p 35 a) yes b) no c)nmaybe
7. What is the cost of a course of Zostavax vaccine? p 50
8. What are the heart failure target doses for ramipril & bisoprolol? p 2, 3, 13

Pictures & Colors Speak a 1000 Words
= We are Canadian!!! International readers also welcome!!!
= Pregnancy categories (defined on page 135)
= A concern if given Pre-Op
e.g. St. John’s Wort on Herbal-DI chart (page 92-93)
= Likely safe;  Possibly safe for herbal products
= ↓ dose required for Renal dysfunction
e.g. ATACAND family from ACEI/ARB chart (page 2)
= Exception Drug Status (EDS) - Sask. Drug Plan
= Not covered by the Saskatchewan Drug Plan
= Avoid → soybean & peanut allergy
= Monitoring Recommendations
= Contraindication  DI = Drug Interaction
g = generic if available
= Side Effects
= Seizure
= →prior approval required NIHBI (Non-Insured Health Benefits)
for eligible First Nations & Inuit 1-800-580-0950
= covered by NIHBI (in OTC charts & identified ONLY
for drugs which are EDS or non formulary in Sask.)
= → not covered by NIHBI

Green Shading usually indicates HERBAL/Lifestyle related
Blue Shading usually indicates PEDIATRIC related
Purple script usually indicates TRADE NAMES
Navy script usually indicates MAJOR TRIALS

Brent reserves the right to violate these rules at all times.

RxFiles Charts all sizes tabbed - Pocket, Standard & OVERSIZED. See our website!
Editors: Brent Jensen, Loren Regier


http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/index_e.html & FDA