CARDIOLOGY

Antihypertensives
ACE Inhibitor & ARB Chart 2
Beta Blocker Chart 3
Calcium Channel Blocker Chart 4
Diuretics & Misc. Antihypertensives Chart 5
Summary: Antihypertensives Chart 6-7
Trials, Landmark Antihypertensive New 8-9
Antiplatelet & Antithrombotic Chart 10-11
Lipid Landmark Trials Chart 12
Lipid Lowering Agents Chart 13
MI: Post MI Chart 14
QT Prolongation and Torsades de Pointes: Chart 15
Risk Assessment Tool: Cardiovascular 5yr CVD table 16

DERMATOLOGY

Acne Treatment Chart New 18-19
Various OTC (Acne, Fungal, Dermatitis, Plantar Warts & Head Lice Chart)
Topical Corticosteroid Chart 20

EENT (Eye/Ear/Nose/Throat)
Glaucoma (Topical Treatment Chart) 21
Intranasal Corticosteroids Chart 22
Various OTC (Congestion, Cough, Cold & Allergy Chart)

ENDOCRINE & METABOLIC
Andropause: Testosterone Replacement Chart 23
Diabetes
Oral Hypoglycemics Chart 24-25
Insulin Chart 26
Obesity: Weight Loss Drugs Chart New 27
Weight Loss: Herbal Products Chart New 28-29

GASTROINTESTINAL

Crohn’s & Ulcerative Colitis Chart New 31-33
GERD & Peptic Ulcer Disease: Evidence & Chart 34-35
H. Pylori Therapy Chart 36
Various OTC (GI: Dyspepsia, Constipation, Diarrhea Chart)

GENITOURINARY: Erectile Dysfunction Chart 37

INFECTIONIOUS DISEASE

Anti-infectives Oral Chart 38-39
Influenza Drug Chart 40
Malaria Prophylaxis Newsletter New 41
Pneumonia: Community Acquired (CAP) Chart 42
Pneumonia: Fine Severity Risk Tool Pocket Card New 43
Urinary Tract Infections in Adults Chart 44

MUSCULOSKELETAL & CONNECTIVE TISSUE

Back Pain Treatment Chart & Treatment Options 45
Chronic Non-Malignant Pain Drug Chart New 46-47
NSAIDs & Other Analgesics Chart 48
Opioids Chart 49
Rheumatoid Arthritis: DMARDS Chart 50
Various OTC (Pain Relief Chart)

NEUROLOGY

Alzheimer’s/Dementia Chart 51-53
Essential Tremor & Restless Leg Syndrome Chart 54
Migraine: Acute & Prophylaxis Chart 56-57
Multiple Sclerosis New 55
Parkinson’s Treatment Chart 58-59
Seizures: Antiepileptics Chart 60-61

OBS & GYNE

Contraception
Oral Contraceptive (COC’s) Chart 62-63
Other Hormonal Birth Control (non-COC) Chart 64
Menopausal
Postmenopausal Herbal Therapy Chart 65
Postmenopausal Therapy Chart 66

OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) & HERBAL MEDICATIONS

Cold-FX, Glucosamine & Lakota Herbal Products New 67
Herbal Drug Interactions Chart 68-69
OTC
Congestion; Cough; Cold; Allergy 70
GI: Dyspepsia, Constipation & Diarrhea; Pain relief 71
Acne; Fungal; Dermatitis 72
Plantar Warts; Head Lice & Vitamins 73

PSYCHIATRY

Anxiety Disorders
Antianxiety Chart 74
Benzodiazepines Chart 75
Bipolar Disorder: Mood Stabilizer Chart 76-77
Depression
Antidepressant Chart 78-79
Antidepressant Drug Interaction Chart 80
Hypersexuality Treatment Options Chart 81
Schizophrenia: Antipsychotics Chart 82-83
Sleep Disorders: Sedatives Chart 84-85

RESPIRATORY

Asthma
Asthma Drug Chart 86-87
Asthma Inhalational Devices Chart New 88

SMOKING CESSATION
Chart New 89

MISCELLANEOUS

Cannabinoids: An Overview New 90
Health Agencies & Regulatory Environment New 91
Patient Safety: Medication Issues New 92

INDEXES:
Newsletters & Q&A’s 93
Drug 94-97
Abbreviations & Symbols 98

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# Drugs in Pregnancy Risk Classification

The following are the codes that appear on some of our charts. This table explains the rating system used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK FACTOR</th>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>COMMENTS *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>SAFE</td>
<td>No risk. Considered safe in all trimesters. No evidence of fetal risk in controlled studies in humans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>LIKELY SAFE</td>
<td>Minimal risk. Either no evidence of risk in animals or risk found in animal studies not reproduced in humans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/D</td>
<td></td>
<td>With higher dose, longer duration of drug exposure or near term the risk becomes D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>CAUTION</td>
<td>Potential risk. Risk evident from studies in animals and/or no human studies available. Use only if benefit outweighs risk. May be more or less safe depending on trimester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/D</td>
<td></td>
<td>With higher dose, longer duration of drug exposure or near term the risk becomes D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>EXTREME CAUTION</td>
<td>Positive evidence of risk. Use only if benefit outweighs risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>CONTRAINDIENCED</td>
<td>++ Positive evidence of risk. Avoid in women who are or may become pregnant as risk of use outweighs any benefit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>Risk unknown or untested. Information unavailable/inadequate at this time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rating system has limitations eg. antidepressant frequently used like fluoxetine has a C rating; yet maprotiline (B rating) has less clinical experience


[NOTE: for additional Canadian information on drugs in pregnancy & lactation see http://www.motherisk.org/index.jsp]

Common RxFiles ABBREVIATIONS & SYMBOLS – most of our charts have footnotes to explain unique abbreviations.

- **=Exception Drug Status (EDS) in Saskatchewan (1-800-667-2549)
- **X=non-formulary in Saskatchewan
- **S=Retail Cost to Consumer based on acquisition cost, markup & dispensing fee in Saskatchewan. Lowest generic price used where available
- **BP=blood pressure  **Bz=benzodiazepine  **CI=contraindication  **ς=strength of tablet is scored  **☺=tastes good
- **≤dose required for Renal dysfunction  **≥if 1 ≥ 75% renal excretion
- **2x toxic if accumulates 3 an active metabolite requiring dose adjustment. [CrCl <60ml/min shows impaired renal function]
- **ml/min Male={(140-age) x ABW weight in Kg } / (serum creatinine in umol/l x 0.814)
- **ml/min Female=0.85 x CrCl male
- **Adjusted body weight in kg (ABW) = (Ideal body weight (IBW) + 0.4 (Actual body weight−IBW))
- **IBW=Males=50kg + 0.906 (Height in cm - 152.4cm); IBW (Females)=45kg + 0.906 (Height in cm - 152.4cm)

Newsletters, Charts & References are available online at [www.RxFiles.ca](http://www.RxFiles.ca)