

Medications

Mid-Manhattan Library - - Health Information Center
455 Fifth Avenue, 2nd floor, New York, NY 10016 (212) 340 – 0883

This is a select list of drug information sources available in Mid-Manhattan Library's Health Information Center. For browsing purposes, it may be helpful to know that the Dewey Decimal Classification System shelves subject matter concerning medications under the call number 615.1

Locations: Closed Shelf items: shelved at information desk, ask librarians for access.
Special Collection Table: stand-alone table, located between information desk and 40th St. windows
Reference Stacks: Shelves with red numbers on top, against 40th St. windows.
Circulating Collection: Shelves with black numbers on top, against 40th St. windows.

General Information

The following print resources provide general answers to questions you may have about your medication. Use these books to answer such questions as, “why was the medicine prescribed? How is the drug administered? What is the standard dosage? What side effects may the drug cause? How should the drug be stored? What do I do if I forget to take a dose? What manufacturing company created the drug and how can I contact the company?”

PRINT RESOURCES FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

**Covington TR. Ed. Nonprescription Drug Therapy: Guiding Patient Self-Care 3rd ed. St. Louis, MO: Facts & Comparisons, 2004.
REF 615.1 N (Reference Stacks and Circulating Collection)**

**Griffith, H. Winter. Complete Guide to Prescription & Non-Prescription Drugs. New York: Berkley Publishing Group, 2004.
REF 615.1 G (Special Collection Table, Section 4, Reference Stacks, and Circulating Collection)**

**Physicians' Desk Reference. Montvale, NJ: Medical Economics, Thomson PDR, 2005.
REF 615.1102 P (Closed Shelf)**

Rybacki, James J. The Essential Guide to Prescription Drugs. 2005 ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.
REF 615.1 E (Special Collection Table, Section 4, Reference Stacks, and Circulating Collection)

USP DI Volume II: Advice for the Patient / Drug Information in Lay Language. 25th ed. Greenwood Village: CO, 2005.
REF 615.58 U (Reference Stacks)

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

Clinical Pharmacology (NYPL Subscription Database)

<http://www.nypl.org/databases/index.cfm?act=3&id=818>

Provides up-to-date, concise and clinically relevant drug monographs for all U.S. prescription drugs, hard-to-find herbal and nutritional supplements, over-the-counter products and new and investigational drugs. Available from any NYPL branch or from home with an NYPL card.

MedlinePlus: Drug Information (World Wide Web Resource)

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html

This website provides information on thousands of prescription and over-the-counter medications. Information is provided by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the United States Pharmacopeia. Entries are written for a consumer audience.

SafeMedication.com (World Wide Web Resources)

<http://www.safemedication.com/administer/index.cfm>

In addition to basic drug information, this site offers graphic illustrations on the best way to administer ear drops, eye drops, eye ointments, inhalers, nose drops, and suppositories.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/>

Department of the Food and Drug Administration dedicated to evaluating over-the-counter and prescription drugs. Site contains detailed information on the safety and effectiveness of drugs on the market and those awaiting approval. Includes a database of FDA approved drug products.

Herbal Medicines and Natural Products

Der Marderosian, Ara. Ed. Guide to Popular Natural Products. 3rd ed. Greensboro, NC: Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc., 2003.
REF 615.321 G (Reference Stacks and Circulating Collection)

Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database. 5th ed. Stockton, CA: Therapeutic Research Faculty, 2003.
REF 615.32 N (Reference Stacks)

PDR for Herbal Medicines. 3rd ed. Montvale, NJ: Thomson PDR, 2004.
REF 615.321 P (Closed Shelf, Special Collection Table, Section 14, and Circulating Collection)

Side Effects and Drug Interactions

Certain medicines, herbal supplements, vitamins, and foods should not be used together as they might cause unwanted side effects, ranging in severity. For this reason, be sure to tell your doctor everything you are taking. To learn more about drug interactions and side effects consult the following resources:

Drug Interaction Facts. St. Louis: Facts & Comparisons Division, 2004.
Ref 615.7045 D (Reference stacks + circulating copy)

Physicians' Desk Reference Companion Guide. 59th ed. Montvale, NJ: Medical Economics, 2005.
Ref (Closed Shelf) 615.704 P

Meant to be used with the Physicians' Desk Reference, this book contains an interactions index, food interactions cross reference, side effects index, indications index, and a contraindications index.

RxList: Side Effects and Drug Interactions (World Wide Web Resource)

<http://www.rxlist.com/cgi/generic/brand.htm>

This website offers an A-Z list of 1450 + products with links to prescribing information, including side effects and drug interactions.

Financial Concerns

Consumer Education: Buying Medicine and Medical Products Over the Internet (World Wide Web Resource)

http://www.fda.gov/cder/consumerinfo/Buy_meds_online_text.htm

If you're thinking of buying medicine and / or medical products over the Internet, be sure to read through the text documents, compiled here by the FDA, for some practical advice to consider when buying online.

Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs (World Wide Web Resource)

<http://www.crbestbuydrugs.org/>

Use this free service, from the nonprofit Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports, to find the most cost effective prescription drugs.

HelpingPatients.org (World Wide Web Resource)

<https://www.helpingpatients.org/Intro.php>

Helping Patients offers an easily searchable database to more than 275 public and private patient assistance programs that help low-income, underinsured or uninsured patients get free or nearly free brand name medicines. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association and its member companies provide this database.

New York State Prescription Drug Price Website (World Wide Web Resource)

<http://fairchild.oag.state.ny.us/rx/>

Created by the New York State Attorney General, this website compares prices for 25 commonly prescribed prescription drugs at various pharmacies in New York State. You can search by city, county or zip code.

NeedyMeds.com (World Wide Web Resource)

<http://www.needymeds.com/>

This site is designed to provide information about patient assistance programs which provide low or no cost prescription medications to eligible participants.

Medicare (World Wide Web Resource)

<http://www.medicare.gov>

Access this site to find Medicare approved drug discount cards, and compare prices for your prescriptions.

Haack, Lee Brian, Rick Melcher, and Deborah Romaine. Smart Buys Drug-Wise: How to Save a Fortune on Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs. Washington: Harbor Press, 2005.

615.1 H (Circulating Collection)

Registered pharmacists, Haack and Melcher, team up with medical writer, Deborah Romaine, to share consumer strategies on saving money on drug purchases. This book includes a chapter on taking advantage of low international drug prices while avoiding the common problems associated with Canadian mail-order and Internet pharmacies. Also included, in the book, is a special section on understanding the new Medicare drug plans and a foreword written by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, head of the Senate Prescription Drug Task Force.

Updated 03/2005