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## RRH Library Newsletter, October 2012

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## Lexi-Comp Review

The Library currently subscribes to Micromedex and Lexi-Comp (drug information databases). With help from clinicians, the Library will compare the two systems through the end of the second quarter, 2013. Our objective: identify which product to subscribe to in 2014.

This special edition contains a review of Lexi-Comp written by Karen DuPre' and Carol Maher, in-patient pharmacists at Rochester General. Karen has practiced in a wide variety of settings including acute care, retail, an HMO and home infusion. Carol has also practiced in many healthcare environments including acute care, an HMO, and a medical group.

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Years ago, pharmacists spent much of their time dispensing and compounding medications. Now it seems most of our time is spent dispensing information. We need to find accurate and up to date information quickly in a perpetually changing medical environment. Having an online database is more than just a tool for us; it is a life-line!

Lexi-Comp is a comprehensive medical database that supplies much of the information a pharmacist needs to access on a daily basis. This is supported with easy connectivity to a wealth of online reference articles. The Lexi-Comp drug database provides the same detailed medication information as Micromedex but uses a bullet-type format which can make the information you need quicker to find. It has many other important features:

**Interaction guide:** A quick and comprehensive look to confirm the absence of an interaction between drugs, or to gather information regarding the documented adverse effects and the severity level of combining medications.

**Drug ID:** This is helpful when an unknown medication needs identification – for example in the case of an overdose when unlabeled pills are found, or when a patient combines multiple medications in one container. It is also used to identify patients' non-formulary home medications.

**Calculators:** Lexi-Comp supports over 50 calculators, ranging from commonly used ones such as an adjusted body weight calculator, to more specific dosing nomograms for individual drugs like atracurium. There are also categories such as corticosteroid conversions, opioid agonist conversions, fentanyl topical conversion, etc.

**IV Compatibility:** Pharmacists receive many inquiries regarding IV compatibility. Often patients will have only one IV line or port, and nurses need to know what is safe to run together, or whether a particular drug is stable in a given diluent. Lexi-Comp uses both *King's Guide* and *Trissel's Guide* as their data sources. When IV compatibility is in question, please consult a pharmacist. We are here to help.

**Patient Education:** Lexi-Comp offers a patient education guide, which is a very useful template when counseling a patient about their medications.

**Toxicology:** Emergencies and accidents happen. The toxicology section offers answers including antidotes, household product names and ingredients and agent of toxicity. When all else fails, call poison control, but many questions can be answered using this resource.

**International Drugs:** Sometimes a patient may procure a medication from a foreign country. These meds often have different names and availability. This content is very helpful in identifying products which have been, up to now, very hard to find information about.

**Disease States:** Pharmacists often need information beyond medications to answer questions and make recommendations. This section of Lexi-Comp offers a comprehensive view of disease states and treatment modalities and helps the pharmacist see the big picture.

Many of us were Micromedex users before Lexi-Comp came along. Essentially, these two platforms offer the same information, so it doesn't make sense that RGH continue to offer both platforms indefinitely. The next time you need some online medical information, give Lexi-Comp a try. We think after just a little practice you will find it very user friendly. If you have any questions, feel free to call your pharmacist for help!

# Lexi-Comp vs Micromedex

## How you can help the Library reach a decision

The Library currently subscribes to both Micromedex and Lexi-Comp (drug information databases). With assistance from clinicians, the Library will compare the two systems from now until the end of the second quarter, 2013. Our objective: identify which product best meets the needs of our team members and the patients they serve. Each database provides drug and patient education information.

The Library has subscribed to Micromedex since 1993; Lexi-Comp came on the scene in 2012. We understand that clinicians are more familiar with Micromedex, and may turn to Micromedex out of habit. ***Please use Lexi-Comp when you need drug or patient education material so you become more familiar with the product.***

## Training Available

Lexicomp will be conducting training sessions for RGH team members. This is the first step in the evaluation process: learning how to use the Lexicomp database so that comparisons may be made between the drug and patient education content of Lexicomp and Micromedex.

Lexi-Comp training dates, times, and locations are highlighted below. Training will be conducted primarily by a Lexi-Comp trainer, and will last no more than an hour. Typically, training extends to 45 minutes. Please consider attending one of these sessions and share what you've learned with your colleagues. This will enable more people to evaluate the products during the first half of 2013. Please contact the Call Center at 922-LINK to register.

### Wednesday, November 28, 2012

8:00 – 9:00	RGH	Weiner Room
9:00 – 10:00	RGH	Weiner Room
3:00 – 4:00	RGH	Weiner Room

### Thursday, November 29, 2012

8:30 – 9:30	RGH	Weiner Room
10:00 – 11:00	RGH	Weiner Room
11:00 – 12:00	RGH	Weiner Room
1:00 – 2:00	RGH	Van Zandt Conference Room (Radiology)
2:00 – 3:00	RGH	Library Telemedicine Room
4:00 – 5:00	RGH	Weiner Room

Library staff will continue to provide training for interested individuals or departments. Please contact the Library to make other training arrangements.

## Further Evaluation

General evaluations will be available via a Zoomerang survey sometime during the early part of the second quarter in 2013. Specific key players will also be completing a more intense evaluation of the two products to help reach a decision about which subscription to continue. Watch for updates as we work through the evaluation phase!

If you have any questions, please contact the Library at (585) 922-4743 or at [wellness@rochestergeneral.org](mailto:wellness@rochestergeneral.org)

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