

Australian Medicines Handbook

Clinical decision support workshop

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Australian Medicines Handbook

- Background, history & place in practice
- Features & benefits of content
- How we do it
- What's in the pipeline

AMH Background

- Startup funds granted by government in 1995
- Need for a national formulary previously identified
- Important element in Quality Use of Medicines policy
- Content model = British National Formulary (BNF)

AMH Pty Ltd



- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Australasian Society for Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology

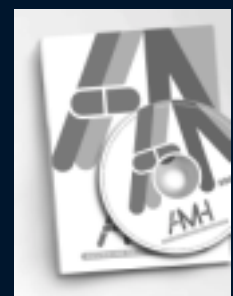


Product History

- 1st edition May 1998
- 2000, 2002, 2003; now annual
- e-AMH from May 2000; upgrades annual since 2001

Position –books and databases

- ◆ Database - Micromedex
- ◆ Encyclopedia - Martindale
- ◆ PI Compendium - MIMS annual
- ◆ Practice manual - AMH



AMH content features

- **Uses best available evidence**, local and international, guidelines, position statements
- **peer reviewed** nationally by doctors, pharmacists, nurses
- **independent** – no pharmaceutical industry advertising or support
- **Australian** – written, reviewed and published for Australian practice settings

Content Features

- **comparative** – efficacy and safety information for similar drugs
- **indications** – marketed and clinically accepted
- **adverse effects** grouped by frequency
- **drug interactions** – only those that are clinically significant

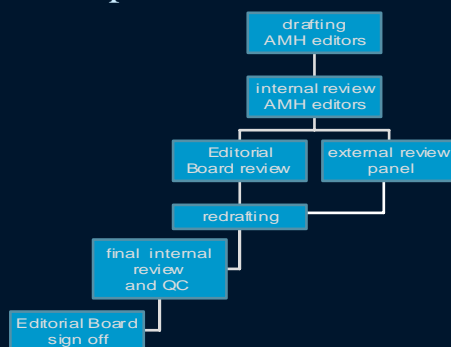
Content features

- **practice points** – practical gems of advice that are hard to find
- **live links** to high quality internet sites
- **key advice** for patients
- **ideal point of care** 'first place to look'

Some examples of benefits....

- Pregnancy information
- Immunisation advice
- Non-marketed drugs
- Monitoring drug treatment
- Comparative information

Editorial process



Structured documents

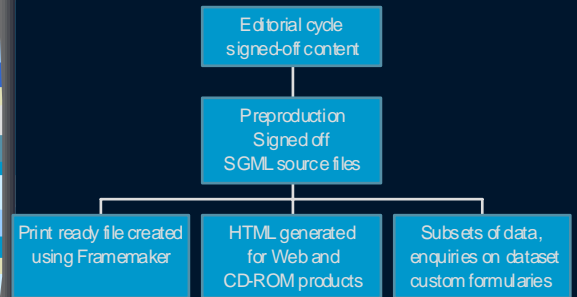
- SGML
- Unique IDs for drug classes (parents) and individual monographs (siblings).
- Progressively increasing granularity of content with each iteration

Current outputs vary by....

- Content
- Order and manner of display
- Navigation
- Searching

Cross media publishing

AMH work flow



Current and future developments

- 6 monthly web version updates from mid 2004
- First release pAMH (Pocket PC) mid 2004
- E-versions of other AMH products – Aged Care, Emergency and Primary Care
- Integrated e-products

Other R&D

- Drug-drug interactions
- Research opportunities