
About This Handbook

The goal of this handbook is to provide the prescriber with a resource to help avoid unintended and harmful drug-drug interactions (DDIs). To accomplish this goal, this handbook contains tables that provide information on pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetically mediated DDIs with an emphasis on psychiatric medications. The reason for this emphasis is that patients receiving psychiatric medications are often taking multiple medications, including both psychiatric and nonpsychiatric medications. As a result, these patients have an increased risk of experiencing DDIs.

The handbook is organized as follows:

1. a brief introduction to organizing principles essential to understand, predict, and avoid potentially harmful DDIs
2. an explanation of each reference table and how to utilize them, and
3. appendices that provide additional background information on DDIs including websites where continuously updated information can be found to aid the shelf life of this handbook.

This organization puts the core reference information first for quick reference by the prescriber. Background information can be found in the appendices for the interested reader.

This handbook is the first edition by the author. Dr. Preskorn together with Dr. Flockhart have published three previous books on this topic in 2004, 2006, and 2010. Dr. Flockhart sadly passed away prior to the development of this new book, which is a substantial departure from the earlier works in terms of organization and content. To do this update, every drug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) since 2009 was reviewed and added to the tables as needed. The number of approved new molecular entities (ie, new drugs) totaled 254. In addition, text on specific types of potentially clinically meaningful pharmacodynamic DDIs were added in the appendices.