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Medications and Mother's Milk (Fourteenth Edition)

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This 14th edition continues to expand on an already voluminous amount of valuable medication information for lactation and other health professionals. Since the preceding edition, 17 complete drug reviews (e. g. adactept), 2 vaccines (e. g. measles, mumps), and 7 cancer chemotherapeutic agents (e. g. everolimus, apatinib) have been added, as well as many updates to drug monographs and appendices (e. g. contraception methods). The majority of this handbook consists of detailed drug reviews, enabling objective and easy access to information related to specific drugs.

The appendices encompass a variety a clinical settings. In response to the prior H1N1 virus threats and Tamiflu® shortages, a copy of Emergency Use Authorization of Tamiflu® Fact Sheet for healthcare providers is new to this edition. Growth development tables based on the WHO standards for breastfed infants have now been included. One notable oversight is a lack of response to the 2006 federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act and the 2008 U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recommendations on pediatric over-the-counter medications. The lengthy cold remedies table does not reflect these reformulations and includes various obsolete drugs.

This continuous improvement in information invites improvements in the presentation. For example, providing a table of contents for the appendices would enhance usability. Appendix E, in particular, is an increasingly large collection of valuable independent reference data that will be enhanced by grouping items of similar nature and by itemizing the appendix itself. An appendix dedicated exclusively to herbals will reflect the increasing specialized interest in this topic. Disclosure of the rationale behind capitalizing numerous chemicals in the index might improve its usefulness. Since the number of pages increases each year, consideration might be given to decrease the thickness of the book by enlarging the page size to allow convenient shelf storage.

Medications and Mother's Milk remains an essential resource for clinicians managing lactating mothers taking medications. It is thoroughly researched with the goal of reducing misconceptions of the use of medications in breastfeeding mothers by giving clinicians the tools to determine the risk to the infant.

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Editor's note: The 12th edition of **Medications and Mothers' Milk** was reviewed in JHL 22(4):453, 2006. The review of the 13th edition of **Medications and Mothers' Milk** on the ILCA website in February 2009.