BOOK REVIEW



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An essential reference for the drug safety practitioner

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Book details

Cobert B

Cobert's Manual of Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance: Second Edition Sudbury: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2012 408 pages, ISBN-13: 978–0763791599

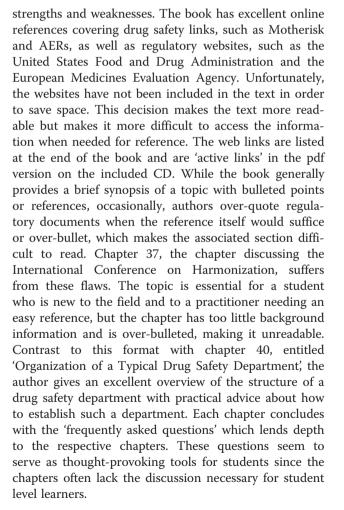
Keywords: Book review, Cobert's manual of drug safety, Drug safety, Pharmacovigilance

The second edition of *Cobert's Manual of Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance* seeks to serve as manual for students and reference for practitioners in the field of drug safety. It is a lofty objective to fulfill both of these roles, and the book seems to serve best as a reference manual for those actively practicing in the field.

The manual is well organized and edited, and it includes a CD with a portable document format (pdf) version of the book. The introduction admits that 'genomics is barely mentioned in this book, and indeed, the book has stayed true to this promise. Ignoring this major topic in the field of drug safety and pharmacovigilance further supports the assertion that the appropriate role for this book is as a reference for the practitioner in a drug safety department rather than a new student text. The book starts by giving the obligate definitions of the terms that will be covered in the subsequent chapters. The chapters then progress logically, focusing first on issues of drug safety from clinical trials, then postmarketing vigilance, a discussion of the entities responsible for monitoring and enforcement, and then the populations affected by drug administration. The book then moves into the specifics of how the practitioner can effectively monitor and report adverse drug reactions. These chapters are where the book truly shines. Chapter 8, entitled 'Where the Data Resides', is an excellent overview of global data collection devices and their

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Students learning the historical background, basics concepts, and future direction of the field should continue to use such books as the *Textbook of Pharmacoepidemiology* or Stephen's *Detection of New Adverse Drug Reactions*. Despite its shortcomings for a new student in the field, *Cobert's Manual of Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance* concisely places a large amount of information essential to the daily activities of a drug safety department in one easyto-navigate text. This book is an essential reference for those working in the field of drug safety.

Competing interests

The author has no competing interests to declare.

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Received: 27 November 2012 Accepted: 10 December 2012 Published: 5 February 2013

doi:10.1186/1479-7364-7-3 Cite this article as: Monte: An essential reference for the drug safety practitioner. *Human Genomics* 2013 7:3.

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