

Vermont Board of Pharmacy
Policy on References for Pharmacies

Administrative Rule of the Board of Pharmacy 9.15 requires pharmacy references.

"Each pharmacy shall maintain on file at least one reference in each of the categories listed below. Computerized, on-line versions are acceptable instead of a hard copy of the current manual only if made known and accessible to every pharmacist at the pharmacy. Whether in hard copy or computerized, this reference work must be complete and must include an explanation of drug interactions, either in the form of a manual or otherwise:

- (a) State and federal drug laws relating to the practice of pharmacy, including a current copy of these statutes and rules, and the legal distribution of drugs and any rules or regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
- (b) Current manual of drug interactions equivalent to *Hansten's or Drug Facts*, with quarterly updates, which has been pre-approved by the Board.
- (c) *Current Facts and Comparisons*, with monthly updates or its equivalent which has been approved by the Board.
- (d) Current reference on pediatric dosages;
- (e) Pharmacies offering for sale herbal or alternative medicines, must possess a current reference for such; computerized version or hard copy."

Under the rule, the Board may review a reference for equivalence to *Hansten's or Drug Facts*. The intent of the Rule is to ensure that the pharmacist has information necessary to provide an appropriate review of drug interactions.

To clarify the meaning and intent of the rule, the Board adopts the following policy:

Rule 9.15 requires references used by pharmacists be those intended for use by health care professionals. Use of drug interaction references intended for consumer use is not acceptable under the rule.

Examples of references that are acceptable to the Board include: "Cerner Multum," "Clinical Pharmacology," "Epocrates," "Facts & Comparisons," "Hansten and Horn: Drug Interactions."

Adopted December 16, 2015


George King Milne, R.Ph, Chair