LEXI-COMP, INC.
PROVIDING QUICK, ACCURATE, AND PORTABLE ACCESS
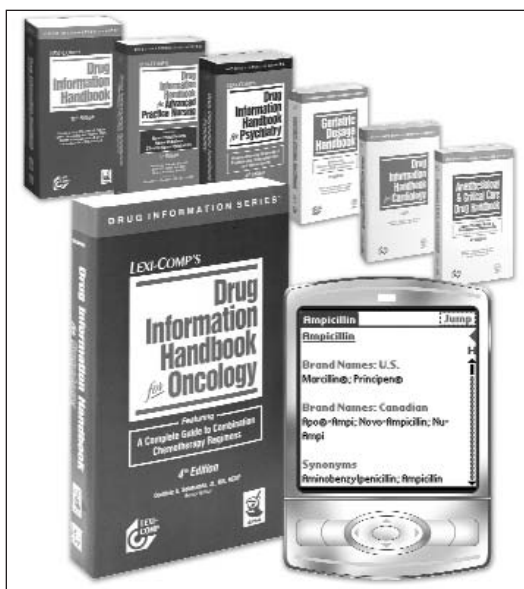### TO CLINICAL INFORMATION AT THE POINT-OF-CARE

It is the responsibility of clinicians to ensure the safety of their patients. The practice of medicine, however, is quite complicated and clinicians often find themselves turning to references for help. In particular, with the constant entry of new medication into the market, it is difficult at best for clinicians to keep abreast of all the potential drug interactions. Consequently, there is a growing trend of clinicians making regular use of computers and software applications to access drug and healthcare information. **Lexi-Comp, Inc.** (Hudson, OH)**,** a major reference and custom publisher of health information and a leader in providing clinical information at the point-of-care, offers an extensive line of software products that provides clinicians with the most up-to-date and clinically relevant information available. Lexi-Comp's electronic database libraries are available through the internet with its **Lexi-Comp Online™** series, and can also be utilized with a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) with its **On-Hand™** software library. The continuing integration of PDA's into the healthcare community proves they have become vital instruments with a vast array of applications.

Led by its **Lexi-Drugs™ Platinum** and **Lexi-Interact™** modules, Lexi-Comp's On-Hand software library provides quick, portable access to clinical information. Lexi-Drug Platinum, rated the "most comprehensive and clinically dependable drug information," (*1*) is the official drug reference of the American Pharmacists Association and the National Professional Society of Pharmacists. Lexi-Drugs Platinum offers clinicians four download options to fit individual practice needs: *Essential* provides the most frequently used fields and information on over 1600 drug monographs and over 3900 U.S. brand names and is ideal for users who need to save a little space on their PDA. *Comprehensive* provides more detailed information for each drug monograph, and *Comprehensive Plus Specialty* includes the most complete source of drug information available today. Specialty information for oncology can be found in the *Comprehenive Plus Specialty* download, including Combination Chemotherapy Regimens, and specialty fields within each monograph incluing Emetic Potential and Vesicant. The databases for the *Comprehensive* options have more than 7000 U.S. and Canadian brand names. An *International* download contains a brand name index from 58 countries as well as information on medications not approved in the United States and Canada. Updates with the latest warnings and new drug information are posted to the Lexi-Comp database daily, allowing physicians to continually download and synchronize data.

Charles Taylor, MD, Hematologist and Oncologist with Cancer Care Associates, Tulsa, OK, who has been using Lexi-Drugs Platinum on his PDA for approximately three years, describes the benefits of Lexi-Drugs Platinum:

"This [database] is very complete and well organized. It contains a lot of useful information that is very easy to access. There are standard drugs that I do not use in my everyday practice and this allows me to obtain information about how those drugs might interact with chemotherapy drugs. I also like the fact that the database is updated regularly. I have occasionally required support from Lexi-Comp and have found the customer service team to be very responsive. I have been very impressed." Dr. Taylor's comments leave little doubt that PDA's will continue to play a central role in the daily routine of oncologists and other clinicians in similar data-intensive specialties.

Lexi-Interact, the perfect companion to Lexi-Comp Platinum or any Lexi-Comp drug database, is an essential tool that can analyze drug and natural product profiles to identify any potential interaction. Lexi-Interact recognizes the greatest number of potential interactions compared to any other available reference, identifying more than 3600 brand names drugs as well as the most commonly used herbs. Clinicians can review interactions for a specific medication or for a patient-specific regimen. Additionally, clinicians can obtain detailed information about a drug interaction result to help monitor and manage a patient's care. Lexi-Interact can be an educational tool for students, residents, and faculty. Lexi-Comp has added a Special Alerts field to their handheld software products, allowing clinicians to obtain more detailed information on important medication announcements, including "Black Box Warnings," market withdrawals, and other critical content as it pertains to drug therapy.

A recent study evaluated nine drug interaction databases for PDA's and their ability to easily, accurately and completely assess various combinations of medications for potential interactions. In this study, a total of 80 unique sets of interaction pairs were evaluated—half determined to be "clinically important," the other half, "clinically unimportant"—based on specific content included in the interactions analyses of each program. The results demonstrated Lexi-Interact was one of the top interactions programs available. The author of the study concluded that, "Lexi-Interact excelled as a PDA pharmacopoeia for assessing drug interactions." (2) A second study also evaluated nine drug information software programs for greatest breadth, dependability, and ease-of-use. Fifty-six questions that pharmacists would expect to field in both the inpatient and outpatient settings were used to determine which program best provided these characteristics. The authors concluded that the Lexi-Drugs Platinum offered the greatest breadth of information and the most clinically dependable content. (3)

Bob Kerscher, President of Lexi-Comp says, "The quality of information we provide in our Lexi-Drugs Platinum product combined with the detail of drug interactions in Lexi-Interact provides the healthcare professional with a practical and trusted drug resource for their handheld device. We are very excited about our abilities to provide up-to-date detailed information for users of our handheld software. Because of our internal clinical and information technology teams, we are able to react quickly to changes in drug information and post them to our website for download. It was very gratifying for us to surpass our competition by incorporating the Baycol R withdrawal announcement into our handheld products within a few hours of the FDA's press release. We feel this timely turnaround offers clinicians a real opportunity to use their handheld device to improve the care they provide to their patients."

Lexi-Comp offers a suite of products available on many platforms, including web-based, handheld/PDA, CD-ROM, and print. Seven of the top ten hospitals ranked in the U.S. News and World Reports 2002 annual hospital survey use Lexi-Comp's clinical databases and technology. More than 500,000 clinicians rely on Lexi-Comp every year for critical information on prescribing, administering, and monitoring medications. Lexi-Comp has always provided high quality information required at the point-of-care. The information within its publications is based upon the hard work contributed by respected authors, internal clinical team, and the thousands of professionals within the healthcare industry who constantly review and validate the data. Lexi-Comp performs daily surveillance of government agencies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and key clinical literature to identify changes to the drug information content. Lexi-Comp stands behind the integrity of its information, which is the cornerstone of its business.

For more information about Lexi-Comp, Inc., or any of its products, contact Katie Seabeck at 1-800-837-5394, e-mail to Katie.seabeck@lexi.com, contact a Lexi-Comp representative at ASCO, booth #1129, or visit the company's website at www.lexi.com.

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2. Barrons, R., *Evaluation of Personal Digital Assistant Software for Drug Interactions*, Am J. Health-Syst Pharm 2004; 61-380-5
3. Enders SJ, Enders JM, Holstad SG., *Drug Information Software for Palm Operating System, Personal Digital Assistants: Breadth, Clinical Dependability, and Ease of Use.* Pharmacotherapy 2002; 22(8):1036-40.