

How To Use *Therapeutic Choices*

The fifth edition of *Therapeutic Choices* includes 120 chapters and three appendices. Each chapter presents essential therapeutic information organized in easily readable algorithms and tables. The table(s) of drug choices appear at the end of each chapter. Chapters are referenced; citations to the literature follow the Suggested Readings section.

Drug therapy is discussed using generic drug names. Brand name inclusion in the chapters is not intended as an endorsement of that brand name. Many Canadian brand names are listed in the tables to the chapters. These are not all inclusive and are not listed in any order of preference.

The true cost of a specific therapy involves a number of elements including the manufacturer's list price, the mark-up and the dispensing fee, the length of drug therapy and costs related to drug administration. Prices used to determine cost of therapy in this book are the acquisition costs in Ottawa at the time of writing. The drug costs in the tables do not involve a dispensing fee or mark-up.

Costs shown are relative and are indicated by the \$ symbol; actual costs are shown occasionally. For most conditions, calculations were made with the cost of the lowest priced product at the usual dosage for a given period. The treatment period selected for most chronic conditions is 30 days. However, treatment periods vary, and the legend accompanying each table should be consulted.

Readers of *Therapeutic Choices* requiring more detailed information on pediatric therapy should consult specialized texts.

Appendix I addresses dosage adjustment in patients with compromised renal function. In the tables, a small icon (☞) appears after the drug name if dosage adjustment should be considered.

The use of drugs during pregnancy and lactation is the subject of Appendix II.

Selected chapters include pharmacoeconomic considerations. They appear in shaded text following each of these chapters. General principles of pharmacoeconomics are discussed in Appendix III.