How to Use CPS

CPS is composed of six main sections plus appendices and glossary. The following questions will guide you in locating specific types of information using this structure. You may also read the How to Use guides at the beginning of most sections.

How do I find information about a drug when I know only the generic name, e.g., pamidronate?
Turn to the Brand and Generic Name Index (green section). Locate pamidronate (printed in light face italics). Although several brand names are listed (bold print) following pamidronate, only some are underlined. In the Monograph section (white section), which is organized alphabetically, you will find a complete product monograph for the underlined brand name. Brand names that are not underlined are accompanied by availability (supplied) information only.
Note: You will also see that information about pamidronate can be found in the CPhA monograph, Bisphosphonates (bold and underlined). A complete list of the CPhA monographs, written by CPhA editors, can be found in the front pages of CPS.

How do I find information about a brand name drug?
Turn to the Brand and Generic Name Index (green section). The brand name is printed in bold and underlined, indicating that complete prescribing information can be located alphabetically in the Monograph section (white section). A brand name that is printed in light face is available in Canada but a monograph does not appear in CPS or the product has been discontinued (the year the product was discontinued is indicated at the end of each listing).

How do I find what a drug looks like?
There are two ways to do this: 1) The product monograph contains a description in the Supplied or Dosage Forms, Composition and Packaging section at the end of the monograph. If there is a photo of the dosage form in the Product Identification Section (glossy white pages), “Shown in Product Identification Section” will appear at the end of the monograph. 2) Check the index at the beginning of the Product Identification section to determine the specific location of the photo.

How do I find which drugs may be used to treat a certain disease or condition before recommending or prescribing for my patient, e.g., anticonvulsants?
Turn to the Therapeutic Guide (pink section) which is organized by medical indication. The index will guide you to “Epilepsy,” where you will find a list of generic names organized by class (e.g., Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Hydantoin derivatives).

How do I find clinical information, such as how to monitor serum drug concentration of phenytoin, its use in pregnancy or when to administer in relation to food?
The Clin-Info section (lilac section) contains quick reference information and dosing tools related to the drug or condition in question. Consult the Table of Contents (first page) or the Index (last page) of Clin-Info to find relevant information.

How do I find the Information for the Patient section of the Product Monograph?
The Consumer Information (Part III of the Health Canada-approved Product Monograph) is available by subscription at www.pharmacists.ca/cps.

How do I find contact information on Poison Control Centres and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers/Distributors?

How do I find information about Health Canada programs and the forms for reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs)?
The Appendices at the end of the book contain information about narcotics and other targeted substances, the Special Access Programme and forms for reporting adverse events associated with drugs and vaccines.

How do I find discontinued products?
A listing of products discontinued from 2000-2013 is included in the Brand and Generic Name Index (green section). You only have to look in one place—the green section of CPS.

Online Updates
For new and revised content received by the publisher after the print deadline, subscribe to CPS e-Suite at www.pharmacists.ca/cps. For more information, contact us by e-mail at service@pharmacists.ca or by telephone at 1-800-917-9489 ext. 501. Summary table of drug updates is also available at www.pharmacists.ca/cpsupdates or by subscription at www.pharmacists.ca/cps.