

How to use Martindale

Martindale is a tool for the health professional, and like any complex tool there are tips and techniques that can help you make the most of it.

What is Martindale for?

Martindale can be used in two basic ways: to answer specific questions about drugs and drug therapy, or to provide an overview of a drug or topic. More precisely, it is often used for identification of medicines or drugs from brand names, synonyms, manufacturers' codes, and so on; as a source for checking adverse effects, precautions, interactions, indications, and doses; and for reviewing general information about a drug, or a disease and its treatment.

What substances does Martindale cover?

- therapeutic drugs in use throughout the world
- investigational drugs
- vitamins and nutritional agents
- vaccines
- radiopharmaceuticals
- contrast media and diagnostic agents
- medicinal gases
- pharmaceutical excipients
- herbals and complementary medicines
- drugs of abuse and recreational drugs
- toxic substances
- disinfectants
- pesticides
- some veterinary drugs

What sort of specific questions can Martindale answer?

- What is Drug X ?
- What is Drug X used for ?
- What is the dose of Drug X ?
- What is the usual treatment for Disease Y ?
- Where is Drug X available ?
- Does Drug X cause Disease Y ?
- Does Drug X interact with Drug Z ?
- How does Drug X act ?
- How is Drug X given ?
- How is Drug X transformed in the body ?
- What preparations contain Drug X ?
- What are the active ingredients of Preparation P ?
- Who manufactures Preparation P ?
- Can Drug X be used to treat Disease Y ?
- Can Drug X be used in patients with Disease Y ?
- Is Drug X restricted in sport?

How up to date is Martindale?

As up to date as we can make it. In the two years since the previous edition every single piece of information has been re-evaluated. The latest references in this edition were added only months before going to the printers. Users of MedicinesComplete, Ovid, MicroMedex and DataStar versions have access to more frequent updates, as some of the data is revised every three months, depending on our revision schedule.

Is it value for money?

Martindale provides access to over 40 person-years of intensive work, and an entire library of data, distilled for convenience into something you can hold in one (strong!) hand. If you were to use it just once every day (and in a busy centre you well might use it more) the cost per query would be less than the price of a daily newspaper.

What general information does Martindale contain?

Martindale contains encyclopaedic information on more than 6,000 drugs and other substances of interest to healthcare professionals and pharmacists in all branches of their profession. A fuller description of the contents is given under Contents.