

## Drug Information Sources for the Attorney

There are numerous sources online for drug information. Some are specifically geared towards health care professionals and include articles published in the medical literature. However, these may be a bit too clinical for the attorney looking for a right-to-the-point source of drug information. The following websites (current as of May 2016) provide reliable drug information for non-clinicians. The differences between the sites are their sources for information. Some only include information summarized from FDA prescribing information and others include information from reliable pharmacy references such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, Micromedex, and MedFacts. All of them are free; however, the Medscape site requires free registration.

**Drug Information Portal (U.S. National Library of Medicine):** <http://druginfo.nlm.nih.gov/>. This is a robust source of drug information and provides links to additional information from many US-government supported websites, articles (geared toward clinicians), and prescribing information.

**Drugs.com:** <http://www.drugs.com/>. Both health care professional and consumer-level drug information are provided on this site. There is a section on drug safety labeling changes in FDA prescribing information. This is helpful since you may not be aware that you are looking at an outdated prescribing information that doesn't include recent warnings, precautions, or adverse reactions.

**Physicians' Desk Reference:** <http://www.pdrhealth.com/>. The Physicians' Desk Reference (commonly referred to as "the PDR") has an online portal to search for drug and disease state information. This site provides very basic information in the format of patient information questions and answers and is a good starting place to become familiar with a drug's indications, proper usage, and side effects.

**WebMD Drugs and Medications Database:** <http://www.webmd.com/drugs/index-drugs.aspx>. This resource summarizes the uses, precautions, side effects, drug interactions, and toxicity information for prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The site is searchable by drug name or disease state.

**Medscape:** <http://reference.medscape.com/>. Medscape is under the umbrella of WebMD. Although it is targeted more towards medical professionals, the site has information that is useful and interpretable by non-clinicians. The site is searchable by drug name, disease state, and medical procedure name.

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