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Quality & Safety in Pharmacy Practice: Book Review

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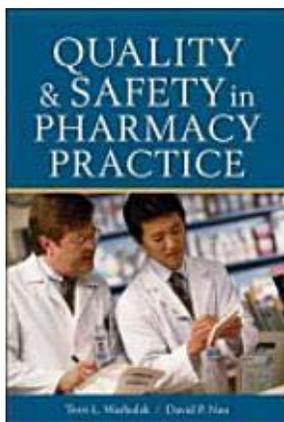
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QUALITY & SAFETY in PHARMACY PRACTICE

Edited by Terri L. Warholak and David P. Nau

Published by McGraw Hill Medical, New York (2010)



Book Website Link: [Quality & Safety in Pharmacy Practice](#)

Reviewed by Donald L. Uden and Jon C. Schommer

This book describes (1) current quality improvement and reporting in the U.S. health care system, (2) basic concepts for quality improvement, (3) quality measurement, (4) cutting-edge interventions, and (5) application of these principles and measures to contemporary and future pharmacy practice.

Editors Warholak and Nau sought out experts in these domains and have compiled an impressive array of chapters that are well written and full of valuable information that both researchers and practitioners can use and apply. Although chapters are written by various authors, the book flows seamlessly from one chapter to the next and provides a consistent thread of thought. The use of multiple case examples is excellent for giving insights about the various topics and for adding to the overall flow of the book.

The application of quality principles and measurement to pharmacy practice is outstanding. This book links the importance of understanding problems in the medication use system with quality in health care overall. This important link is then used to describe various aspects of quality and safety in health care and concludes with sensible application to contemporary and future pharmacy practice.

In our opinion, this book can serve as an important resource for researchers for framing quality and safety research. For example, chapter 2 provides an outstanding framework for understanding how problems occur in the use of medications

and this chapter's 84 references constitute a valuable literature review in this area.

In addition, this book can serve as an important resource for practitioners (including student pharmacists) who wish to learn more about how to apply these principles to practice and it fills a void in pharmacy curricula pertaining to quality and safety. For example, there are chapters that provide straightforward information about the business case for pharmacy quality (chapter 3), how to assess patient assessment of quality (chapter 10), and how to implement your own pharmacy quality improvement program (chapter 17).

Finally, the book details leading organizations in the quality and safety domain. As such, we believe that those who are interested in this domain from a policy perspective also would find the book useful. In light of rapid change in the U.S. health care system during this time, this book can be a useful resource for leading change.

It is difficult to compile a book that is useful to a diverse readership. We propose that editors Warholak and Nau have done this and highly recommend this book to researchers, practitioners, and those interested in policy.