See why more dentists choose Lexicomp solutions from Wolters Kluwer

drug information for medication safety

Lexicomp Online for Dentistry provides dental professionals with dental-specific pharmacology information, drug interaction analysis tools, and our extensive dental reference library to help promote medication safety. VisualDx® Oral, a cutting-edge computer-assisted lesion diagnosis tool available in some subscriptions, helps dental professionals develop a differential diagnosis and confirm treatment plans for common and rare oral lesions. With the premium ePrescribing program, dental professionals can store patient medication lists that link easily to drug information resources to help save time.

- **Searchable content** from the #1 rated *Drug Information Handbook for Dentistry*, plus the entire Lexicomp dental reference library
- **Daily content updates** to help you stay current with the latest medication information
- **Dental-specific drug interaction, allergy and duplicate therapy screening tool** – designed to save time when checking for interactions and reduce the risk of adverse drug events, this tool analyzes a patient’s entire drug and natural products regimen, known drug allergies, and potential duplicate therapies
- **Have confidence and help enhance patient care with Medication Safety Check** – Help inform or confirm your treatment plan by instantly generating a list of drugs from a medication category that don’t interact with your patient’s drug regimen or allergies
Due to improved healthcare, people are living longer and taking more prescribed and over-the-counter medications than ever before. According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), the vast majority of older adults in the United States use prescription medications regularly, 1 in 3 uses 5 or more prescription medications regularly, and about half regularly use over-the-counter medications and dietary supplements.  

An important, yet rarely discussed, part of the team effort to enhance patient care is the dentist’s role in medication safety. The frequency and length of visits give dentists a unique opportunity to take an active role in improving patient safety and overall patient care by documenting medical histories, checking for drug interactions and conducting due diligence to ensure any procedures or medications prescribed by the dentist are in the best interest of the patient, given his or her overall health.

According to John Flucke, DDS, a Lexicomp user for more than 10 years, “Dentists see patients every six months with average office visits lasting approximately 35-40 minutes, compared to six or seven minutes at a physician’s office. Taking a proper medical history, including asking for the full ‘grocery’ list of medications the patient is taking, is not only the right thing to do, it’s a necessity.”

A dentist, like any other prescriber, is legally liable if an adverse drug event were to occur under his or her care. They have a responsibility to their patients to ensure prescribed medications and dental procedures are calculated based on their drug regimens and medical history, and “do no harm,” as the Hippocratic Oath says. Many dentists are redefining the standard of care in dentistry by going above and beyond what their predecessors did – and many are doing this through enhanced technology.

“People are living longer and have more complex medical histories as a result,” Flucke said. “It’s not a situation that dentists can continue to ignore. It is our responsibility to keep our patients safe.”

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**User Testimonial**

“With so many different drugs on the market, and more entering the scene every day, it’s impossible for any one person to be up on all possible side effects and interactions that occur.”

Scott Benjamin, DDS

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**Lexicomp Online for Dentistry provides fast and reliable tools for medication safety**

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**How Lexicomp Online Works**

When a user enters a drug name, a drop-down list appears that helps avoid confusion with misspellings and “sound-alike” drugs. This functionality, according to Benjamin, helps office personnel avoid entering the wrong medications.

Screening a patient’s medication regimen is quick and easy with Lexicomp “Dental Alerts.” Users view instant warnings on medications and natural products that could affect dental treatment, such as:

- Use of drugs (what they are used to treat)
- The drug’s effect on dental treatment
- Local anesthetic precautions
- Dental comments related to a specific drug
- Effects on bleeding

Checking for drug and drug allergy interactions is also simplified. With the interactions screener, the user enters patient medications, natural products, and known drug allergies, as well as the appropriate medication category of the drug the user wishes to prescribe. An instantaneous analysis shows which drugs have the potential to interact or cause an allergic reaction, ranked by severity of the interaction. Medication Safety Check allows the user to immediately generate a list of drugs from the selected medication category that won’t conflict with the patient’s regimen or reported allergies, providing dental professionals with fast, actionable information to inform their prescribing plans.

Dr. Benjamin, Dr. Dorociak and Dr. Flucke have made referencing Lexicomp Online standard operating procedure in their practices, and have been loyal Lexicomp clients for more than 10 years.

“While I am consulting with a patient, I always have Lexicomp Online open on my computer right beside me,” Dr. Benjamin said. “I once had a patient who was on 29 different medications. Without Lexicomp, I wouldn’t have been able to accurately identify medication-related issues that could have come up and I would have been liable if something had gone wrong.”

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