

# Physicians' Desk Reference

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The ***Physicians' Desk Reference (PDR)*** is a commercially published compilation of manufacturers' prescribing information (package insert) on prescription drugs, updated annually. While designed to provide physicians with the full legally mandated information relevant to writing prescriptions (just as its name suggests), it is widely available in libraries and bookstores, widely used by other medical specialists, and sometimes valuable to the layman. The compilation is financially supported in part by pharmaceutical manufacturing corporations which create drugs listed within its pages. The 71st Edition, published in 2017, was the final hardcover edition. It weighed in at 4.6 pounds and contained information on over 1,000 drugs.<sup>[1]</sup> Since then, the PDR is available online (PDR.net) for free, and has been integrated into some electronic health record (EHR) systems. PDR.net also links to a free mobile app.

Since the late 20th century, a consumer edition has been offered at a much reduced price. Electronic editions are available on CD-ROM and the World Wide Web to subscribers. In 1984, Paul C. Kranz and Michael Grondin travelled to Oradell, New Jersey, and presented to Medical Economics (then-publisher of the *PDR*) a prototype developed by Grondin on a TI 99/4A computer of how a digital copy of the PDR would work and benefit clinicians. The idea originally conceived by Kranz was well received by the president and vice-president of IT and an agreement was struck to investigate. The result was the *PDR* on CD-ROM. The main edition is usable by determined laypeople in conjunction with a medical dictionary.

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## About the *PDR*

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The *PDR* material contained includes:

- Comprehensive indexing (four sections)
  - by Manufacturer
  - Products (by company's or trademarked drug name)
  - Category index (for example, "antibiotics")
  - Generic/chemical index (non-trademark common drug names)
- Color images of medications
- Product information, consistent with FDA labeling
  - Chemical information

- Function/action
- Indications & Contraindications
- Trial research, side effects, warnings

## Related references

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There are several versions and related volumes:

- *PDR*
- *PDR for Nonprescription Drugs, Dietary Supplements, and Herbs*
- *PDR Drug Interactions and Side Effects Index*
- *PDRhealth*—Version in lay terms.
- *PDR Family Guide to Over-the-Counter Drugs*—Lay term guide to non-prescription medication.
- *PDR for Ophthalmic Medicines*
- *PDR Drug Guide for Mental Health Professionals*
- *PDR for Herbal Medicines*

## References

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1. <https://www.amazon.com/2017-Physicians-Desk-Reference-71st/dp/156363838X>

## External links

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- *PDR - Physicians' Desk Reference* (<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/PDR-Physicians-Desk-Reference/143541339014861>)—Facebook

## Online version

- *PDR.Net* (<http://www.pdr.net>)—online version, free consumer drug and medical information site.

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