



**Mercy
Ships®**

Bringing Hope and Healing...

Formulary 2009-2011



**An Essential Medicines Dosing Guide
Based on the WHO Model Formulary**

PREFACE

The Mercy Ships Formulary Medicines Book and List is compiled through the collaboration of pharmacy, nursing, medical, surgical and other healthcare volunteers of Mercy Ships, with the collective experience of over 30 years of international humanitarian medical service, through its fleet of hospital ships and at its US International Operations Centre and land bases around the world. First published in 2003, this third edition is based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) 16th Model Essential Medicines List 2009 and WHO Model Formulary 2008. The dosing recommendations in this book serve as a guide and should be adjusted according to the needs of the individual patient.

All Medicines listed are Formulary items (F) unless otherwise indicated.

Formulary items are critical medicines meant to be consistently available and should not be substituted without prior consultation of the formulary committee. The current Mercy Ships Formulary list (Dec 2009) contains 391 items, of which 336 are F items and 55 are D items (see below). Mercy Ships also advocates the use of generics and purchases F items as far as possible from the International Dispensary Association www.idafoundation.org. In this edition, these medicines are denoted **IDA items** according to availability on the 2009 IDA Catalogue.

Donation (D) items are donation-dependent medicines which may not be consistently available.

EML items denote medicines listed also on the WHO Essential Medicines List 2009 (Core or Complementary). *Currently 60% of the Mercy Ships Formulary list items are WHO EML listed items.* For further information on the EML concept see the chapter "Introduction on Essential Medicines" or www.who.int/medicines/.

MSL items are medicines on the Mandatory Sailing List, required by international maritime laws to be on stock in determined quantities during sailing.

N/CD denotes narcotics/controlled drugs and **PS** denotes psychotropic substances, both requiring specific record keeping and storage according to international laws under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1961, 1971 and 1988).

How to use this book ☺ -

Because of the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the medical volunteers of Mercy Ships, this book has been produced for the following usage:

1. As a guide on what medicines are generally **available** with Mercy Ships. Mercy Ships advocates generic prescribing and the use of generics. The trade/brand names mentioned in this book are meant only as *examples* to help volunteers from trade name prescribing backgrounds and are NOT indicative of the stock on board;
2. As a **pocket-size bedside rapid reference** for common dosages and administration recommendations. Complete drug monographs are not included, since full references such as the WMF, BNF or product leaflets are available in the wards or offices or surgical theatres, as well as access to Micromedex online. The comment/caution notes in this book are intended to prompt users to read up further when needed;
3. As a basic **educational tool** providing WHO recommendations and notes on the use of essential medicines. The listing by pharmaceutical categories is intended to enable rapid placement of medicines in therapeutic use and alternatives available. A complete index based on generic name, trade name examples and disease states at the end of the book enables searching by alphabetical order.

A table of *conversions and units* as well as *common abbreviations* are included at the end of the book, along with appendices on prescribing in children, pregnancy, breastfeeding and the elderly.

Please forward any feedback and recommendations for additions, deletions and alterations to the current pharmacist or crew physician on board, or directly to the formulary editor at kae.trouilloud@mercyships.org .

All feedback is submitted for consideration by a committee on a six-monthly basis to the formulary list and on a bi-yearly basis to the formulary book.