

Medical Information (MI) - Value Story

Drug Safety

What do I do?

As an MI professional, I provide scientific information to HCPs to help them use medications in a safe and effective manner.

How do I apply my expertise?

As a healthcare professional, I understand the considerations that go into making a treatment decision. Safety considerations for HCPs are critically important. Physicians need to understand the safety profile of a drug – which is defined by the incidence, severity, characteristics, and management of adverse event (AEs). I can search our drug's safety profile based on specific patient characteristics (such as age or comorbidities) to identify the most relevant information. I probe what the HCP is most concerned about; for example, is it a general description of the AE, the duration of the AE, or the management of the AE? Physicians may decide to continue a particular treatment (or not) based on the severity and expected duration of the AE, and I can help identify data to inform that decision.

What is the value I bring to HCP decision-making?

Once I know what the HCP needs, I can help locate data which will be of value. This includes not only published data but also data from medical congresses, including late breaking posters which may not be readily available to the general medical community. I can provide these important findings, as well as confer with internal Patient Safety colleagues who can identify internal unpublished data or conduct additional safety analysis to further enhance the information I share. My colleagues . Thus I and my colleagues can provide the most up-to-date information which is not available from other sources.

How I contribute to patient care:

Every drug has some risk. HCPs must decide based on the data whether the benefits of a specific drug indicated to treat a patient's condition is worth the risk. Data increase the HCP's confidence in their decision whether to initiate, continue, or discontinue drug treatment. For example, they can weigh the risk of an AE with the clinical benefits. Our data can help them make a more informed decision.

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Drug Storage

What do I do?

As an MI professional, I enable HCPs to make informed and effective treatment decisions by providing scientific data and information.

How do I apply my expertise?

I frequently receive calls from physicians asking whether a vaccine which had inadvertently been exposed to temperatures outside the range recommended in the labeling should still be administered to their patients.

What is the value I bring to HCP decision-making?

As a pharmacist, I understand the issues affecting drug stability. As manufacturing generally conducts extensive temperature stability tests, I meet with this department to identify and review available stability data. We then collaborate to develop a letter to inform the HCP. I knew vaccine stability is based on two factors: the temperature it was exposed to and the cumulative time of the exposure(s). I asked questions of the clinician (e.g., can you validate the temperature by looking at the thermometer in the refrigerator, or checking the office temperature). Based on the answers and the data, I was able to provide the HCP with the information needed to make an informed decision about the usability of the vaccine.

How I contributed to patient care:

Based on the information provided, the HCP was able to determine if the vaccine was still appropriate for use. This can minimize vaccine wastage. Additionally, if the vaccine had already been administered to a patient, the information can help avoid additional unnecessary doses.

Medical Information (MI) - Value Story

Drug Contraindications

What do I do?

As an MI professional, I provide scientific information to help HCPs make better informed treatment decisions and clinical judgments relating to their patients.

How do I apply my expertise?

HCPs may have questions about the contraindications of a drug, including the clinical data supporting a specific contraindication. Using a drug that is contraindicated in a specific disease state or other clinical situation may cause that drug to be harmful to the patient.

What is the value I bring to HCP decision-making?

Discontinuation of any medication unnecessarily can put patients at risk if the contraindication does not apply to the particular patient being treated. HCPs must evaluate the risk/benefit ratio for the use of medication. MI data can help them make a more informed decision about a specific patient's situation regarding drug usage.

How I contributed to patient care:

Plasma-derived alpha-1 proteinase inhibitors may be contraindicated for patients who are undergoing surgery leaving an open healing wound. HCPs need to assess the risk of keeping patients on therapy given their clinical benefits. When HCPs contact MI regarding this issue, we conduct a very careful search of the published biomedical literature in order to determine if there are any citations pertaining to the use of this therapy in the presence of a healing open wound. These searches increase HCP confidence in decisions regarding whether or not to discontinue drug treatment.