Standard drug information categories

Match the numbered category with the lettered definitions.

1. Adverse effects  
2. Availability  
3. Boxed warning (formerly Black Box warning)  
4. Compatibility  
5. Compounding  
6. Contraindications  
7. Dosing or Administration  
8. Drug interaction  
9. Identification  
10. Indications or Use  
11. Nomenclature  
12. Patient and Therapy Management  
13. Patient Counseling or Education  
14. Pharmacokinetics  
15. Pharmacology or Mechanism of Action  
16. Poisoning or toxicology  
17. Pregnancy or Lactation  
18. Stability or Storage

a. The names of the drugs—generic and brand in the US and other countries; chemical names used to describe the drug prior to it being approved.

b. An unwanted or undesired effect of a drug.

c. The absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of drugs. What systems are involved in this and how the drug travels.

d. The conditions/diseases that this drug is approved to treat by the US FDA. Some sources also list off-label conditions (conditions for which this drug is used without FDA authorization).

e. Potential harms to a fetus or young child if the drug is taken by its mother.

f. Reasons why specific types of people should not use this drug, usually based on other coexisting diseases or medical issues, personal choices (smoking, drinking), or life stages (pregnancy, the very old).

g. What the drug does inside the body—affects a receptor, promotes creation of a specific hormone, etc.

h. How much of the drug to give and when.

i. Drug- or class-specific counseling points for patients.

j. Special monitoring required to ensure safe use of a drug, and how to do this monitoring.

k. What the drug looks like—shape, color, etc.
l. Temperature, humidity, packaging, and other factors that affect a drug's shelf life. How long a drug can be kept in a refrigerator, at room temperature, or in a heated area, and still be effective.

m. When two or more intravenous drugs are going to be used at the same time, and you need to know if this will cause an undesired effect.

n. Methods of manufacturing for a drug. How to take a tablet and turn it into a topical cream.

o. The amount of a single drug required to injure or hurt someone; how to manage an overdose.

p. What forms and dosages are manufactured, in the United States and abroad.

q. When two or more oral or topical drugs are used at the same time, and you want to know if this will cause an undesired effect.

r. A major safety concern for a drug, so important that it is separated from other warnings and precautions.