

CLIENT Profile

The Children's Hospital
of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sarah Erush, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Manager, Department of Pharmacy

World-Renowned Pediatric Institution Turns to Lexi-Comp for Drug Information

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a world-renowned pediatric institution that has fostered many medical discoveries and innovations that have improved healthcare for children. The hospital has used Lexi-Comp drug information for many years, including Lexi-Comp® ONLINE™ and its databases and modules, as well as Lexi-Comp's customized formulary service and Lexi-Comp® ON-HAND™ products for personal digital assistants (PDAs).

"Our patients come to us from all around the world. We take advantage of Lexi-Comp's patient advisory leaflets (Lexi-PALS) constantly because they are available in 18 different languages. It makes it much simpler for us to explain drug therapies, and we have the added confidence that non-English speaking patients will understand their regimen as prescribed."

Ranked as the #1 pediatric hospital in 5 of 10 specialties by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2009, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia receives international referrals because of its expertise and stellar reputation. As a result, non-English speaking patients frequent the hospital and it is important that children and their parents receive drug therapy information in their native languages.

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Users of Lexi-Comp ONLINE have access to Adult-PALS™ and Pediatric-PALS™ which offer valuable precautionary information and address several common patient questions, including: why the medication is necessary; how it is given; how it works; storage and disposal; common side effects; and other topics. For the convenience of patients, the leaflets can be accessed and printed in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Creole, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog, Turkish and Vietnamese.

While Children's Hospital of Philadelphia now takes advantage of Lexi-Comp's electronic platforms, they originally chose Lexi-Comp because of the company's printed formulary capabilities.

"Lexi-Comp was the ideal choice for us because not only did they print our formulary, but they were able to add background information into our monographs that we would not have had otherwise," Erush said. "We found Lexi-Comp's information to be way ahead of all others, and they proved to be technology leaders as well."

Throughout The Children's Hospital and Lexi-Comp's relationship, technology evolved tremendously with the advent of the Internet. Lexi-Comp responded to this trend by making their drug information available online and offering customized online formularies.

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Lexi-Comp’s online formulary enables The Children’s Hospital to make instantaneous updates. According to Erush, whether it’s a warning or recall from the FDA, or a change in formulary drugs from the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, she can make the information immediately available with a special notation on the formulary homepage.

“I usually make updates to the formulary at least once a week,” said Erush. “And I know clinicians are looking at the updates. Dosing for children can be very difficult because it can change based on weight and age. There is no way to remember all the details, so the formulary is extremely important at our hospital.”

Today, thousands of clinicians at The Children’s Hospital have access to Lexi-Comp ONLINE and the formulary at every workstation in the hospital and research facility. Erush still feels the hospital has made the best choice in terms of quality content and service.

“I have personally worked with Lexi-Comp since 1993 and what is so remarkable is that I am still working with many of the same people I worked with in the beginning,” Erush explained. “It’s a very unique company these days in that everyone in the company is extremely helpful and it is always easy to get a hold of a live person. Any question or problem I have is usually resolved within 24 hours.”

Additionally, as many clinicians are realizing the benefits of having drug information available on personal digital assistants (PDAs), Lexi-Comp ON-HAND products are becoming more prevalent in the hospital.

“We’ve been with Lexi-Comp through much advancement in technology – and they’ve always been ahead of the competition,” Erush concluded. “I wouldn’t change drug information providers for anything. With Lexi-Comp, I get exceptional service from a family-oriented company, industry-leading information and superior functionality.”

For more information on Lexi-Comp products, visit www.lexi.com.

About The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Since its start in 1855 as the nation’s first hospital devoted exclusively to caring for children, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia has been the birthplace for many dramatic firsts in pediatric medicine. The 425-bed hospital and leading research facility have fostered medical discoveries and innovations that have improved pediatric healthcare and saved countless children’s lives. Sarah C. Erush, PharmD, BCPS, is the Clinical Manager for the Department of Pharmacy.