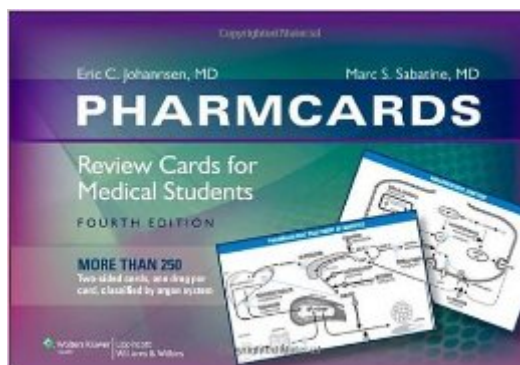


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PharmCards: Review Cards For Medical Students



Synopsis

Set of 240 loose, double-sided flash cards designed for course review and USMLE Step 1 preparation. Contains 50 new cards, 100 new drugs, 14 new class cards, and a new fundamentals of pharmacology section. Previous edition: c1995. Cards are not laminated

Book Information

Cards: 600 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (62 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,394 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 inÂ Books > Textbooks >

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Customer Reviews

For the purposes of studying for step 1s (which is what I bought them for), these cards are way too detailed. They give you more information than you need to know and are simply too much of a time sink to go through. You DO NOT need these cards to get the 240+/99 that everyone craves for the boards. I personally ended up using Lange's pharmacology cards and really love them. If you are genuinely interested in pharmacology then these cards are comprehensive and wonderful to have. But let's be honest here. In an age of PDAs and laptops, you could google, epocrats, dynamed, etc drug information on your phone or computer faster than referring to these cards.

I got PharmCards for my pharmacology class and for step 1 of boards. I have found them very helpful so far. My one complaint is that they are very glossy so it's difficult to highlight or write your own notes on them without smearing ink everywhere. I've found that the Sharpie pens work best for underlining or adding notes. I like how key features such as mechanisms of action are illustrated on the back of the cards.

These are very detailed pharmcards, kind of like a Pharm book on cards. In my opinion, the cards do a good job of explaining concepts that are frequently tested (e.g. USMLE-Qbank). I have the Lange cards too. The main difference between the two sets is that the Lange cards have a case-study on the front side (which is nice). They could probably supplant your Katzung/Trevor Board Review Book. Be aware though, they do not include all side effects that are commonly tested (e.g. hyperkalemia increases toxicity of group I arrhythmic drugs). For the most part, the errors are minimal. I did notice one on the carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (e.g. Acetazolamide card was incomplete and the equilibrium of CO₂ and H₂O was incorrect). They are 4x6 cards that are large, which is a plus or minus depending on your preference. I personally use them while working out on elliptical or riding the bus...Major points of emphasis are BOLDED or ITALICIZED, which is nice. A good deal of material on the cards is redundant on multiple cards (e.g. α₁-receptor agonism --> Gq --> PLC/DAG --> PKC + Ca²⁺ --> sm contraction, etc.). It is a big stack of cards and somewhat intimidating at first, but again, there is a good deal of redundancy in them. For my step 1 review, I am using these cards as well as Katzung/Trevor Board Review.

I went back and forth on whether to purchase these cards or the BRS ones and finally decided on these. Now having used these for a while, I wish I would have purchased the BRS ones. These simply have too much information on the cards to be useful. Essentially they are a textbook on cards. While I suppose it is easy enough to highlight the things that are important, it is also a pain. However, if you are one of those people who believe that more is always better, then these are the cards for you. There is nothing particularly wrong with the cards - the layout is good and they are relatively complete - they just don't fit my needs (and I would assume the needs of most other medical students). If you are going to buy these I would recommend getting them used for a few bucks cheaper since most of the highlighting seemed to be pretty good for what I needed anyways and it saved me the time it would take to do it myself.

These cards were great. Summary cards were helpful. Cards were clear and concise. I did feel that some drugs that were lumped all onto a single card together ought to have had their own card. I used these to review for STEP1. Pharm is a tough subject to review generally and overall practice questions were more helpful for these cards but as far as cards go these are good.

I agree with some of the other reviewers. For purposes of step 1 these are probably too detailed to review all the time. For pharmacology courses, these cards actually work just fine because it

explains mechanisms of drugs more so than other flashcards I've seen. For step 1 I think they can help, but only if you use them selectively. I ended up underlining certain things I thought were important (not in first aid, something I didn't want to forget, important side effect) and focused on just looking over those items when I reviewed these cards, otherwise reviewing the entire card would just not be a good use of time. The one really annoying thing about these cards is what they are made of. Most of the pens I would use would smear including .28mm fast drying pens which I've never had issues with before. I ended up switching to sharpie to underline, but writing on these cards can be frustrating. Overall it's a good resource especially if the school you are at doesn't teach pharm well, just be sure to use these cards selectively.

I bought these cards as an M1 to study for classes. These cards are essentially a textbook in flashcard form, which is both good and bad. Each card has a TON of information on it, and I love the way material is organized on them; they do a great job of visually integrating all the information you could possibly need to know about a given drug onto one card, and the organization tables at the beginning of the deck are great for keeping things straight. The main problem I have with these cards is that they don't come with any convenient way of carrying them around or organizing them. The cards are large (4"x6") and are just shoved into a box in one large pile without any kind of convenient organization system. The only way I could possibly keep them organized would be to get a bulky notecard box, and this would make them even less portable than they already are. There is far too much information on these cards to use them as true flashcards, but a pile of small pieces of paper is too disorganized to study from like a book. Because of all this, I don't use these cards much. I wish the information on these cards were provided in a book form instead.

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