SESSION XIII

PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE (PDR) AND OTHER REFERENCE SOURCES

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Upon successfully completing this session the student will be able to:

- Explain how the various sections of the PDR can provide information that will:
  - Aid in the drug influence evaluation;
  - Aid in courtroom testimony.
- Use the PDR in a practical exercise.
- Describe other reference resources available to assist DRE's.

A. The Physician's Desk Reference as a Resource

The Physician's Desk Reference for Prescription Drugs is a useful reference source for a DRE. It provides detailed information, including photographs, on virtually every drug available for prescription in the country. Many of these drugs are either CNS Depressants or CNS Stimulants, and others are Narcotic Analgesics, while others are combinations of these. Numerous trade names exist for certain drugs, since many manufacturers offer competing products.

During the course of an arrest and evaluation of a suspected drug impaired driver, it is not uncommon to discover pills, tablets, etc. on the subject. Reference to the PDR and other resources usually can help to establish the identity and category of these drugs.

The PDR is published annually. Throughout the year, periodic supplements are published as new products come on the market.

B. The Contents of The PDR

The PDR contains the following color coded sections.

(1) An index of all manufacturers who provided information on their prescription drugs.

(2) An index of Product Names (including discontinued products).

(3) An index of Products by Category of Drugs.
In newer PDRs, the product category and generic sections have been combined.

(4) A Generic and Chemical name index.

(5) A Product Identification section, including actual size and full color photographs.

(6) A Product Information section, describing the drug's composition, action and uses, administration and dosage, precautions, side effects and contraindications, the form in which it is supplied, etc.

(7) A Diagnostic Product Information section.

(8) A listing of the locations and emergency telephone numbers of poison control centers.

(9) A guide to the management of drug overdoses.

List of other reference guides and resources:

(1) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Enforcement and Justice Services Division

(2) State Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Coordinator

(3) The DRE Newsletter, Phoenix City Prosecutors Office, Phoenix, AZ

(4) American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) - The National Traffic Law Center (Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program Monogram)

(5) Poison Control Centers

(6) Medical Dictionaries

(7) The Drug Identification Bible, Amera-Chem Inc.

(8) Drugs and Human Performance Fact Sheets (NHTSA)

(9) Newspaper and magazine articles (i.e. *High Times*)

(10) Software programs (i.e. *Pharmacists, Body Works, etc.)*

(11) Various websites including the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program website: www.decp.org

(12) The Pill Book, Bantam Books

(13) Others