Quick Reference Guide for PIER

Gold Standard has teamed with the American College of Physicians (ACP) to offer the ACP’s electronic medical resource, Physicians’ Information and Education Resource (PIER). PIER provides rapid access to actionable, evidence-based guidelines to improve the quality of patient care, save valuable time, facilitate shared decision-making and provide lifelong learning. Disease modules are PIER’s core. Each module presents a series of succinct guidance statements and practice recommendations, supported by more detailed levels of pertinent rationale and evidence.

Diseases

Example: I would like to view guidance statement information for treating a patient with hypertension.

1. Click on DISEASES from the PIER homepage and select H (for Hypertension).
2. Scroll down to select Hypertension, Essential from the alphabetical list.
3. Within the disease module, select any of these sections to view guidance statements and practice recommendations:
   - Prevention
   - Screening
   - Diagnosis
   - Consultation for Diagnosis
   - Hospitalization
   - Non-drug Therapy
   - Drug Therapy
   - Patient Education
   - Consultation for Management
   - Follow-up
4. Click the Background links within each section to view rationale and evidence, with links to references graded according to level of evidence.

TIP: You can access the Clinical Pharmacology electronic drug reference from the Drug Resource link, located in the upper right corner of your screen in all PIER modules. The Drug Resource feature is available to Clinical Pharmacology subscribers only.

Differential Diagnosis

Example: I have a patient with weight loss and a nonspecific rash in whom I suspect celiac disease. What other diseases in the differential diagnosis should I consider?

1. Click on DISEASES from the PIER homepage, select C (for Celiac Disease) and then Celiac Disease from the alphabetical list.
2. Select Tables from the left side of the screen.
3. Click on Differential Diagnosis of Celiac Disease under Standard tables.

TIP: The Additional Resources link on the left side of every screen provides relevant information from medical literature, including guidelines, journal articles, clinical websites, and information for patients.

Pharmacologic Agents

Example: Which oral agent is least likely to cause hypoglycemia in treating a patient newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus?

1. Click on DISEASES from the PIER homepage, select D (for Diabetes) and then Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2 from the alphabetical list.
2. Select Tables from the left side of the screen.
3. Click on Pharmacologic Agents for Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2 under Standard tables and scan the Side Effects column.

TIP: Tables in PIER can also be accessed from links within the module text.
SCREENING AND PREVENTION

Example: What drugs are available to help a patient stop smoking?

1. Click on SCREENING AND PREVENTION from the PIER homepage and select Smoking Cessation from the Prevention column.
2. Select Effectiveness/Harms of Counseling or Intervention on Changing Behavior from the left side of the screen.
3. Scan the list of recommendations and locate the second bulleted recommendation, “Consider drug treatment modalities for smoking cessation, including nicotine replacement and bupropion.”
4. As in all PIER modules, click on the initial underlined word to obtain succinct, specific recommendations and the underlying evidence.

TIP: Modules in PIER can be printed out from the web page or in PDF format by clicking Download PDFs of this module from the bottom of the menu on the left side of the screen.

COMPLEMENTARY/ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Example: What is the important information I need to consider when referring a patient for acupuncture?

1. Click on the COMPLEMENTARY/ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE link from the PIER homepage, and select Acupuncture from the column titled Disciplines.
2. Select Implementation from the left side of the screen.
3. Read the bulleted text, including the link to the table Guidelines for Patient Counseling, Discussion, and Referral.

TIP: The What’s New box on module homepages lists recent studies of interest, as well as FDA alerts and important breaking news about the topic.

ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

Example: What legal issues do I need to take into consideration when a pregnant teenage patient comes in for advice?

1. Click on the ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES link on the PIER homepage, and select Adolescent Reproductive Issues.
2. Select Background from the left side of the screen.
3. Read the bulleted text for information on confidentiality, parental notification, abortion referral, and partner and child abuse under the Ethical and legal foundation section.

TIP: Search for a topic in the collection of modules by typing a term in the Find box in the upper right corner of the screen, then selecting Legal and Ethical Issues from the drop-down menu.

PROCEDURES

Example: How should I prepare a patient for a flexible sigmoidoscopy?

1. Click on PROCEDURES from the PIER homepage and select Flexible Sigmoidoscopy from the alphabetical list.
2. Click on Details.
3. After scanning the Details, click on “Administer a saline laxative enema or a similar preparation...”
4. As in all PIER modules, click on the Background link for the supporting evidence.

TIP: The Patient Information on the left side of the screen in every PIER module provides you with links to printable, web-based educational materials for patients.