

## INDIPENDENT DRUG INFORMATION AND PRESCIBING APPROPRIATENESS: A CHANCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND PATIENTS

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### Aims

- To spread independent drug information to healthcare professionals and patients related to:
  - a) Appropriate drug prescription according to Evidence Based Medicine (EBM);
  - b) drugs efficacy and safety profile;
  - c) updates from the best scientific literature and independent sources (ISDB Bulletins-International Society of Drug Bulletins).
- To raise awareness about the importance of independent drug information sources.
- To inform patients about diseases and appropriate actions to be taken to prevent drug-related risks.

### Materials and methods

- An electronic bulletin - “Dalla letteratura” - is weekly provided to all healthcare professionals (community and hospital pharmacists, general practitioners, specialists etc.) and patients through the Messina Local Health Authority n. 5 website ([www.ausl5.messina.it](http://www.ausl5.messina.it)) and via e-mail.
- The bulletin provides a selection of news and topics from international literature regarding rational use of drugs and newly reported side effects.
- topics are selected by a specialised staff consisting of pharmacists, physicians, pharmacologists and toxicologists, choosing from issues related to EBM.

### Results

>From 2006 October 27 to date (February 2007), sixteen numbers of the bulletin have been issued. The value of this initiative has been confirmed by the increasing number of accesses to the website (55 accesses per week on average).

### Conclusions

The electronic bulletin represents a valid tool to achieve the goal of a better prescribing appropriateness and for patients correct use of drugs in the Province of Messina. Further local initiatives include a Provincial therapeutic formulary and a Drug Information Centre.