

PUZZLES -PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTIC COMMITTEE

1. Role Recognition Riddle

I decide what drugs go on the formulary,
I assess cost, safety, and efficacy thoroughly.
I'm made up of docs, pharmacists, and more—
Who am I in the hospital's core?

Answer: Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee

2. Formulary Puzzle

The hospital's P&T Committee has reviewed five medications.

- 2 are more effective but expensive
- 1 is cost-effective but less safe
- 1 is safe but lacks efficacy
- 1 is balanced in cost, safety, and effectiveness

Question: Which drug is **most likely** to be added to the formulary?

Answer: The balanced one (cost-effective, safe, and effective)

3. Acronym Decoder

Match the following P&T-related acronyms with their meanings:

- a) DUR
- b) ADR
- c) REMS
- d) DUE

1. Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy
2. Adverse Drug Reaction
3. Drug Utilization Review
4. Drug Use Evaluation

Answer:

a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4



4. Budgeting Brain-Teaser

Your P&T committee must choose between two drugs:

- Drug A costs \$100 per dose and prevents 5 hospitalizations per 100 patients.
- Drug B costs \$50 per dose but only prevents 2 hospitalizations per 100 patients.

Which should the committee prefer based on cost-effectiveness?

(Assume each hospitalization costs \$1,000)

Answer:

- Drug A saves $\$5,000 / \$100 = 50$ patients per $\$5,000 = \100 per hospitalization prevented
- Drug B saves $\$2,000 / \$50 = 40$ patients per $\$2,000 = \250 per hospitalization prevented

Drug A is more cost-effective.



5. Case Study Challenge

A newly approved drug shows great promise but lacks long-term safety data. The manufacturer offers a discount if the drug is included on the formulary.

What should the P&T Committee consider before deciding?

(Choose all that apply)

- a) Short-term efficacy
- b) Long-term safety
- c) Manufacturer's discount
- d) Off-label use potential

Answer: a, b, c (d is relevant only if there's clinical justification)



6. Who Am I?

I am not a drug, but I'm part of formulary decisions.

I evaluate prescribing trends and medication outcomes.

I'm often conducted retrospectively or prospectively.

What am I?

Answer: Drug Utilization Evaluation (DUE)

7. Ethical Dilemma Puzzle

A formulary includes an expensive cancer drug with marginal benefit. A cheaper drug is less effective but much more affordable.

Should the P&T Committee prioritize equity (more patients get treatment) or efficacy (fewer patients get the best drug)?

Answer: There is no single answer—this is a value-based ethical decision. Committees often weigh clinical guidelines, cost-effectiveness, and population benefit.

8. Logic Puzzle

In a P&T meeting, each of the following members voted:

- Pharmacist: No
- Oncologist: Yes
- Administrator: No
- Infectious Disease Specialist: Yes

The vote passed by majority. How many total members must be on the committee for this to be true?

Answer: At least 5 members (so 3 could vote Yes)

9. Committee Composition Riddle

I'm not just pharmacists;
I include physicians, nurses, administrators, and more.
I shape the formulary and drug policy store.
What kind of committee am I?

Answer: Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

10. Spot the Error

A P&T committee recommends adding a drug after a **single sponsored clinical trial**, without reviewing independent studies or cost analysis.

What's the error in this process?

Answer: Inadequate evaluation—relying solely on one (potentially biased) study violates evidence-based principles and overlooks safety/cost factors.