

## BOOK REVIEWS

**SIAS J, JAMES S, MARTINEZ C. *Spanish for the Pharmacy Professional*. Washington DC. American Pharmacists Association; 2009. 214 pp, \$41.95 (paperback), ISBN 978-1582121208.**

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*Spanish for the Pharmacy Professional* is a workbook meant for students to learn to communicate about the basic and intermediate information with which patients might come to them. The book is only meant to help bridge the gap and more complex conditions/states would have to be broken down into simpler terms for the pharmacist as well as the patient. This workbook focuses specifically on the following things: patient counseling regarding specific nonprescription products, sample dialogues in Spanish and English; cultural notes; lessons, exercises, and assessments; Spanish and English words (vocabulary) that are specific to pharmacy care, as well as audio files and additional help available on the Internet.

The workbook starts off with a set of goals that the authors wish to accomplish with the student. Their stated primary goal is to allow plentiful access to the pharmacist to be able to communicate the basic medical information to the Spanish-speaking population. The exercises in the book are intended to include basic pharmacy phrases; explain counseling tips on a variety of medication formulations like patches and suppositories; provide general knowledge about how to explain common self-care problems and disease states; provide some key phrases and vocabulary for the physical assessment that is more commonly used by the pharmacist; and provide cultural notes that are relevant to the different segments of the Hispanic community. The authors make it quite clear that the book is not a grammar book, and their reason for excluding it is that when an individual is learning how to speak Spanish, perfect grammar is usually not expected. However, it is advised that a grammar book and verb conjugation book be used as references. Another shortcoming of the book is that pronunciation has not been provided throughout the book, but is provided through online resources.

The textbook is divided into 4 different sections: introductory vocabulary, chapters on medication use, physical assessment, and appendixes. The workbook has 10 chapters and 214 pages. The introduction vocabulary covers basic pharmacy terminology, medication formulations, and units of measurement, as well as different dialogues to use to greet patients, gather patient health and medication information, and counsel patients. The first 4 chapters of the book are centered on oral formulations like tablets, syrups, and powders (chapter 1 covers analgesics and antipyretics; chapter 2 covers heartburn and reflux; chapter 3 covers cough, cold, and allergies; and chapter 4 covers constipation and diarrhea). The final 6 chapters focus on non-oral or scarce formulations for anything from eye and ear products to inhalations to vaginal and rectal products (chapter 5 covers eye and ear products; chapter 6 covers skin products; chapter 7 covers vaginal and rectal products; chapter 8 covers patches, gums, and sublingual tablets; chapter 9 covers oral and nasal inhalers; and chapter 10 covers subcutaneous injections). The majority of the lessons throughout the book are sectioned into chapters that revolve around the similar disease state or health problem. They also include introductory questions about the condition and helpful phrases on how to question the patient about their current condition. At the end of the book is an appendix with the days of the week, frequency phrases, and a quick reference glossary for medical terminology.

As a whole, this book is an easy-to-read text that can help those individuals who need a basic overview of and quick reference to the Hispanic culture and language. With the significant increase in the Hispanic population, it is becoming more essential for pharmacists to be able to communicate with these patients. Therefore, resources like this book could be of great use not just to the pharmacist, but to the patient as well, by decreasing their stress over being able to receive adequate help when they need it.

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