LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Define the term evidence-based medicine.
2. List the four steps of applying the evidence-based medicine process to a pharmacotherapeutic decision.
3. List the four elements essential to a well-formulated question.
5. Identify searching strategies that could improve retrieval of evidence.
6. Describe the role of metasearch tools for web-based searches.
7. Recognize advantages and disadvantages of different resources for systematic reviews.
8. Differentiate a narrative review from a systematic review.
9. Identify key issues that help to determine the validity of a randomized controlled trial.
10. Identify key issues that help to determine the validity of a practical guideline.
11. Identify key issues that help to determine the validity of a systematic review.
12. Identify key issues that help to determine the validity of a network meta-analysis.
13. Identify key issues that help to determine the validity of economic analyses.
14. Calculate absolute risk reduction and absolute risk increase.
15. Calculate number needed to treat and number needed to harm.
16. List patient-specific factors considered in assessing the applicability of evidence.