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EDIT YOUR INDICATIONS *(User's Manual, pgs.950-952)*

The program comes with a database of indications for nearly every medication in the Vocabulary System, and warns if you are about to start a patient on a medication for which there is no recognized indication. These warnings help to prevent you from ordering the wrong medication (see the February, 2006 *Newsletter*).

However, you may prescribe certain medications for indications that are not listed in the program's database (e.g. for certain off-label uses). Rather than seeing these warnings unnecessarily, you may prefer to add your own Indications to the list. Let's give this a try.

Suppose you just read an article in a medical journal showing that rituximab is useful for treating pemphigus vulgaris.

1. Press Libraries\Indications\List.
2. For **Drug Name**, enter RITUXIMAB.
3. Press **NEW INDICATION**.
4. For **Diagnosis**, type in PEMPHIGUS.
5. For Comment, type in "with intravenous immunoglobulin" (since the drug is to be given concurrently with intravenous immunoglobulin), and the reference. (You might include other comments, such as the fact that the study involved 11 patients with refractory pemphigus vulgaris involving at least 30% of body surface area, etc.).
6. Check **Off Label**, since this is not yet an FDA-approved Indication.
7. Click **OK**.

Note that this Indication is now on the list for rituximab. You will no longer see a warning when you prescribe rituximab for patients with pemphigus. Notice that the Indications screen shows the **Author** as **User** instead of **Program**, and that the **DELETE** button is available in case you at some time want to delete this Indication
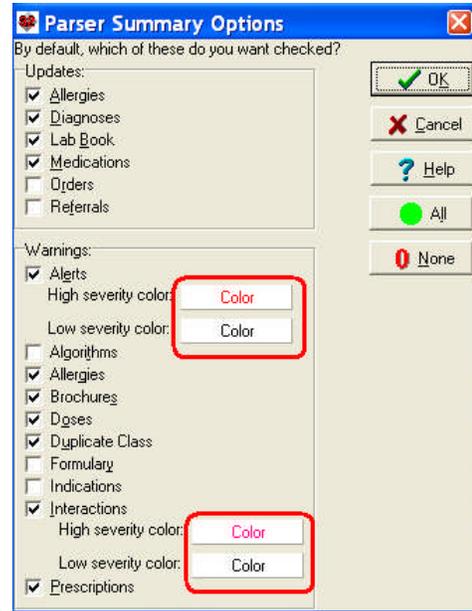
PARSER QUICK SUMMARY ALERT AND INTERACTION ENHANCEMENTS
(User's Manual. pgs. 955-956)

        The Parser Quick Summary can generate many Drug-Disease Alert and drug-drug Interaction warnings. Version 5.0 lets you choose two methods in order to make sure that you pay attention to the most dangerous of these warnings. The methods are:

- **Interrupt:** the warning appears in a window on the screen, interrupting your work, in addition to appearing on the Parser Quick Summary. You are forced to click **OK** or **CANCEL** or press <ESC> to close the warning.
- **High severity color:** the warning appears on the Parser Quick Summary, but in a different color from the warnings of a lower severity. This makes them stand out, so you can pay special attention to them. To read the detailed explanation of the warning, double-click it.

        You can combine these methods. For example, you can arrange to have warnings of the highest severity interrupt you AND appear in a different color in the Parser Quick Summary. Let's set this up:

1. Press System\Medication Options.
2. Set **Interaction interrupt when:** to **Major or above** and press **OK**.
3. Press System\Global Options.
4. Set **Alert Interrupt when:** to **Major or above** and press **OK**.
5. Press System\Parser Options**SUMMARY OPTIONS.**
6. For **Alerts, High severity color**, click on the **Color** button.
7. Click on a color that will stand out for you, such as red, then click **OK**. Note that the word **Color** next to **High severity color** now appears in that color. Make sure this color differs from the **Low severity color**. (If they are the same, click on the **Color** button next to **Low severity color** and choose a different color).
8. For **Interactions, High severity color**, click on the **Color** button.
9. Click on a color that will stand out, and then click **OK**. Make sure this color differs from the **Interactions, Low severity color**. (It is fine to have it match the **Alerts, High severity color** if you want it to).

Let's see how this works (assuming you are using the Parser Quick Summary):
1. Press Write\New Note\Note, enter a patient's name.
2. For the note, write "The patient is on clarithromycin, ranolazine, and atorvastatin. "
3. Notice that the Lethal interaction between ranolazine and clarithromycin interrupts your work.
4. Notice that the ranolazine-clarithromycin interaction also appears in the High Severity Color in the Parser Quick Summary Interactions section, while the less severe atorvastatin-clarithromycin warning appears in the Low Severity Color.

SEND US YOUR TIPS
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