



# MESAC MEMO

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## What's a MESAC? And what does it mean to me?

### *The MESAC Education/Publication Subcommittee*

- Did you ever wonder what resources you could use to answer a drug information question?
- How can you be sure that the order you're entering into POE is going to be interpreted and administered in the way you intended?
- How can you find out why a drug was recently put on formulary?
- How do we make sure that a medication is being administered in the safest manner possible?

Here are some answers!

- The large number of drugs available and the complexities surrounding their use make it necessary for the organization to have a sound program for maximizing rational drug use.
- The Drug Therapy Committee has evolved into the new Medication Education Safety and Approval Committee (also known as MESAC), which is the organizational keystone to this program.
- It is a subcommittee of the Medical Policy Committee.

What does MESAC do?

- It evaluates the clinical use of drugs
- It develops policies for managing drug use and administration
- It manages the formulary system

Who's on MESAC?

- An interdisciplinary group of close to 100 people, including
  - Physicians
  - Pharmacists
  - Nurses
  - Administrators
  - Quality assurance coordinators
  - Information systems staffers
  - Others

How does such a big group operate?

- By subcommittee

Such as?

- Informatics
- Education/Publication
- Approval
- Safe Administration
- Drug Utilization
- Quality Management Reporting
- Patient and Family Advisory Group

That sounds cumbersome. How does MESAC work?

- Stay tuned!
- We'll start out by describing each of the subcommittees in subsequent bulletins
- Then, we'll provide more communications as the process continues and introduce you to a new, comprehensive web site for drug-related information.

Welcome to the MESAC era!