

HOW TO SELECT RUBRICS

In order to refer the remedies for a symptom, one should select the proper rubric from the repertory, which is meant for such a symptom. The knowledge of repertories is essential for selecting the repertory as well as the rubrics.

To select a rubric we may adopt any of the following methods: .

- Direct Selection
- Rubric Search
- Interpretation
- Cross-Reference
- Synthesis of the Rubric

Direct Selection:

In this method, we can directly search to find out the required rubrics, because it is available in the required form.

For example in Kent's repertory:

- Symptom: Complaints of nursing children
 - Rubric: Generalities - Nursing children
- Symptom: Emaciation
 - Rubric: Emaciation

Rubric Search:

In this method, the rubric may be present in the required form, but it is not as easily available as in the direct selection. The symptom may be split among the rubrics and sub rubrics or similar words of the symptom should be recognized.

For example in Kent's repertory:

- Symptom: Aching pain in knee joint.
 - Rubric: Extremities - Pain - Aching - Knee

Interpretation of Rubrics:

This method is necessary, especially for searching the rubrics in the mind chapter. The rubrics may not be present in the direct form or it cannot be searched to find out among the list of rubrics available. The essence of the symptom has to be understood from the context of case taking and the suitable expression for that should be found out in the repertory. Not all the narrations obtained on case taking are found in the repertory, but the equivalent or allied expressions have to be found through interpretation.

For example in Kent's repertory:

- Symptom: Aversion to work
 - Rubric: Indolence
- Symptom: Complaints after haemorrhage
 - Rubric: Generalities – Loss of fluids

Cross-Reference:

Cross-reference means the reference provided to make a notice of similar rubrics and synonyms, either to compare or to make aware of similar words used as rubric in a repertory. In this method, the required rubric can be selected by referring to the options provided along with the rubric.

They are of two types:

- ***Confirmatory Cross-reference***
- ***Comparative Cross-reference***

a) Confirmatory Cross-reference

This rubric will not be provided with any medicines, instead further reference to an allied rubric or rubric with similar meaning will be indicated (usually in brackets) against the rubric which is originally searched for. The medicines will be given only under the rubric given as cross-reference.

For Example in Kent's repertory:

- Mind – Cosmopolitan (see Travel)

Medicines will be indicated only under the rubric 'Travel', so that these medicines can be considered for 'Cosmopolitan'.

b) Comparative Cross-reference

The cross-reference will be indicated (usually in brackets) against the main rubric and the medicines will be found under both the main rubric as well as the rubric given as cross-reference in parenthesis. This helps the physician to select the most appropriate rubric in the given case and facilitates a wider choice of medicine.

For Example in Kent's repertory:

- Mind – Contemptuous (see Scorn)

Here, both the rubrics, 'Contemptuous' and 'Scorn' have medicines against them.

Synthesis of Rubrics

Synthesis of rubrics means combining two or more rubrics in a logical way to fulfil the conversion of a symptom, which is needed in the case but not found directly in the repertory.

That is, whenever a required symptom is not available in the necessary form two or more different rubrics may be brought together to arrive at the appropriate expression in the given case. Though it will not be seen in one place, it can be seen as part by part in various chapters or within a chapter. These bits when combined together (synthesize) form a new rubric with a group of medicines.

Synthesis follows logical principles without compromising with the result. It can be either Inductive or Deductive. The advantage of synthesizing a rubric is that there won't be any super-addition of the marks of the remedies. By combining these rubrics it can reduce the super-addition or multiplication of some remedy grades, which makes the repertorisation result more accurate.

For example in Kent's repertory:

- Symptom: Perspiration increased over palm and soles
 - Rubrics: Extremities – Perspiration – Hand – Palm.
 - Rubrics: Extremities – Perspiration – Foot – Sole.
- Symptom: Difficulty in breathing aggravated after taking fruits
 - Rubrics: Respiration – Difficult.
 - Rubrics: Generalities – Food – Fruits agg.

In synthesis of rubric, the medicines from all the related rubrics can be considered to represent the symptom.

The medicines from the rubrics can be selected in two ways:

- Total addition method: All the medicines from different rubrics are added but the gradation will be taken the highest of that individual remedy.
- Elimination method: Medicines present commonly in all the rubrics are taken into account for the new rubric formation.

Demerit:

When the split rubrics are combined according to our wish, it will not constitute a symptom as same as what we search for. It is better to use those rubrics to understand the remedies indicated and to refer the Materia medica to go for a final prescription.