

## Resources to support answering medicines-related questions in primary care for NHS Scotland

Pharmacy teams are taking on greater roles in primary care, particularly within general practice. They need access to reliable information about medicines. This document suggests resources for use in primary care to answer medicines-related questions.\*

Most of the resources listed are freely-available online.

Medicines Information centres have access to all these resources and more. Telephone numbers for regional UKMi centres are listed in the inside cover of the print BNF and BNFC, and [online](#).

### This document has the following sections:

[General resources and guidelines](#)

[Drug stability / pharmaceutical issues](#)

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No single source is totally comprehensive or completely up-to-date in all respects. At least 2 sources should be used to answer most medicines-related questions.

Comments on this document and suggestions for future updates are welcomed. Please contact: [Tay.medinfo@nhs.scot](mailto:Tay.medinfo@nhs.scot)

We hope you find it useful.

\* Document adapted with permission from Brennan K, Resources to support answering medicines-related questions in primary care. November 2016. North West Medicines Information Centre.

General resources and guidelines		
Title	Access	Content
General resources		
<b>British National Formulary (BNF)</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or  The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland Staff  For further information see <a href="#">OpenAthens Sign-in for NHS Scotland Staff</a>  BNF and BNFC apps for smartphones and tablets are freely available to anyone providing services to NHS patients	Provides authoritative and practical information on the selection and clinical use of medicines.  Quick, concise and useful answers for many problems.  Published twice yearly (March and September) in print; online version preferred as updated monthly. Print copies are now only distributed annually (in September) to eligible NHS healthcare professionals.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>BNF for Children (BNFC)</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or  The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Same as BNF above	Published annually in print (in September); online version is updated monthly.  See BNF (above) for information about how to access.
<b>Scottish Drug Tariff</b> <a href="http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-Medicines/Scottish-Drug-Tariff/">www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-Medicines/Scottish-Drug-Tariff/</a>	Free access online	The Drug Tariff is published monthly and contains information regarding the prescribing, dispensing and reimbursement of medicines and appliances on primary care NHS prescriptions, and rates payable for provision of pharmaceutical services.
<b>Martindale: the complete drug reference</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or  The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	Martindale has monographs for thousands of drugs used worldwide and also provides treatment summaries for various conditions.  Useful for information on doses, adverse effects, unlicensed indications and for identifying foreign medicines.  The online version is updated more frequently than the paper copy.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Micromedex</b> via The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/</a> or <a href="http://www.micromedexsolutions.com/home/dispatch/">www.micromedexsolutions.com/home/dispatch/</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	Particularly useful for unlicensed indications, but also information on doses and ADRs. An American resource so <b>note</b> differences between US and UK product names, formulations and licences. Good practice to check both 'Quick Answers' and 'In-depth Answers' tabs.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'

General resources and guidelines (continued)		
Title	Access	Content
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b>  via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	<p>Useful information to support answering medicines- related questions in practice.</p> <p>Note: Many Q&amp;As have been replaced by more general guidance for dealing with questions of a specific category or nature, for example swallowing difficulties.</p> <p>To find relevant articles and guidance, click on 'Guidance' in the top toolbar of the SPS homepage, then select a link from the list provided on the topic of interest e.g. 'swallowing difficulties'</p> <p>Alternatively, use relevant search term and/ or drug name in search box. If available, relevant articles and guidance will appear in drop down menu of results.</p>
<b>NHS Inform</b> <a href="http://www.nhsinform.scot/">www.nhsinform.scot/</a>	Free access online	<p>This website is provided by NHS Scotland for patients and health professionals. It provides information on hundreds of medical conditions, injuries, tests and treatments, and advice on healthy living.</p>
<b>Summaries of Product Characteristics (SPCs)</b>  Available from:  electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>  or  MHRA* <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	<p>Summaries of Product Characteristics (SPCs) and Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) are available for most UK-licensed products via the eMC website.</p> <p>SPCs are useful for checking the licensed indications, doses, cautions, contraindications and monitoring requirements of a medicine. They can provide helpful information on excipients, adverse effects and interactions. They give the manufacturer's position on the use of a medicine in pregnancy and breastfeeding.</p> <p>There is an <b>Advanced Search</b> function on the <b>eMC</b> that can be helpful. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To find products by indication</li> <li>•To find products with or without a specific excipient or ingredient</li> <li>•To find a tablet with specific markings (for identification)</li> </ul> <p>To perform an advanced search: Click on 'Advanced search' to the bottom right of the search box.</p> <p>You can choose to search by 'Word or Phrase', or to search by 'SmPC section'.</p> <p>The search by SmPC section function is particularly helpful e.g. to find a product that contains a particular active ingredient but does not contain a particular excipient.</p> <p>To search by SPC section, click on 'By SmPC section' then select the section of the SPC you want. Choose 'Contains' or 'Does Not Contain' and type the words you do or do not want. Click 'Add another search rule' then repeat for additional sections. To finish, click 'Search'.</p> <p>* The eMC does not provide a comprehensive list of all SPCs but is easier to search than the MHRA website. For SPCs not on the eMC you can search the MHRA website by product, active substance or product license (PL) number.</p>

General resources and guidelines (continued)		
Title	Access	Content
<b>Guidelines</b>		
The following websites are useful sources of clinical guidelines:		
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS)</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	<p>CKS evidence-based guidelines are for healthcare professionals in primary care and are more user-friendly than NICE guidance (on which many are based). Each guideline can be navigated using headings to the left hand side of the screen.</p> <p>Use the 'Have I got the right topic?' section to see which patients and age groups the guideline does and does not cover. The 'How up-to-date is this topic?' section lists any recent changes.</p> <p>The 'Management' section is particularly useful and explains how to manage various scenarios. It is laid out as a series of questions and answers; evidence (basis for recommendation) is provided to support the recommendations.</p> <p>Scenarios can include management of conditions in women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, children, people with allergies and other patient groups.</p>
<b>Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)</b> <a href="http://www.sign.ac.uk">www.sign.ac.uk</a>	Free online access	SIGN produces evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the NHS in Scotland.
<b>Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC)</b> <a href="http://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk">www.scottishmedicines.org.uk</a>	Free access online	Evidence-based decisions on the use of newly licensed medicines, and new formulations, and new indications of established medicines (NHS Scotland). Can be used to check if a medicine has been accepted for use in NHS Scotland.
<b>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)</b> <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>	Free access online	NICE guidelines provide evidence-based recommendations for topics including preventing and managing various conditions, improving health, and providing social care for adults and children.

Administration of medicines		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	Some drug monographs include a 'directions for administration' section with information on mixing medicines with food or opening capsules. This section is after the dosage information and any information on contraindications, cautions, interactions, side effects, use in hepatic and renal impairment, and drug monitoring.  Links to Medicines for Children leaflets on how to give medicines may also be available in the monograph section 'patient and carer advice'
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Guidance is provided on using medicines safely and effectively in patients with swallowing difficulties. This includes choosing suitable medicines and formulations of medicines for adults with swallowing difficulties, preparing medicines for administration to adults with swallowing difficulties, and giving medicines safely with food or thickened fluid. See:  - <a href="#">Swallowing difficulties</a>  For other relevant articles and guidance, click on 'Guidance' in the top toolbar of the homepage, then select a link from the list provided e.g. 'Administering'  Alternatively, use search terms including "administration" and/ or the drug name to see relevant articles including: - <a href="#">Covert administration of medicines in adults: legal issues</a> - <a href="#">Covert administration of medicines in adults: pharmaceutical issues</a>
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a>  or  <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	See earlier	Instructions for drug administration are in section 4.2 Posology and method of administration.  The SPC for a tablet or capsule preparation may state if it can be crushed or opened for administration orally or via an enteral feeding tube.  The SPC for a liquid preparation may state if it can be administered via an enteral feeding tube.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Handbook of drug administration via enteral feeding tubes</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland Staff	This reference provides information on the suitability of specific branded and generic medicines for administration via enteral feeding tubes.  Select the appropriate monograph. Always refer to the "Suggestions/recommendations" section in each monograph.  Introductory chapters cover various aspects of drug administration via this route.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
Notes: UKMI medicines information centres may have access to further resources e.g. The NEWT Guidelines which contain useful advice about patients with swallowing difficulties and those with feeding tubes.		

Adverse drug reactions		
Title	Access	Content
General resources		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	Information on adverse effects, cautions and contra-indications are included in drug monographs; adverse effects common to a class are listed first, followed by those relating to individual drugs. Important safety concerns may be highlighted in boxes within monographs.  The printed BNF has tables (see Appendix 1 Interactions) listing examples of drugs with particular pharmacodynamic effects (e.g. drugs that prolong the QT interval). The tables are not included in the online version.
<b>Martindale: the complete drug reference</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a> or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland Staff	Information on adverse effects, precautions and contra-indications are included in drug monographs. The adverse effect section may be further subdivided to provide more detailed information about adverse effects on specific organ systems of the body.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Micromedex</b> via The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/</a> or <a href="https://www.micromedexsolutions.com/home/dispatch/">https://www.micromedexsolutions.com/home/dispatch/</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland Staff	Particularly useful for unlicensed indications, but also information on doses and ADRs. An American resource so <b>note</b> differences between US and UK product names, formulations and licences. Good practice to check both 'Quick Answers' and 'In-depth Answers' tabs.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Use search terms such as 'adverse effect', 'side effect' and/or drug name to find relevant articles.
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	Check undesirable effects (section 4.8), contraindications (4.3) and special warnings and precautions for use (4.4) for relevant information.
More specialised resources		
<b>MHRA interactive Drug Analysis Profiles (iDAPs)</b> <a href="https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/idaps">https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/idaps</a>	Free access online	Interactive Drug Analysis Profiles (iDAPs) display data from the Yellow Card Scheme and provide information on the number of reports received for a drug.  Each iDAP provides an overview of spontaneous suspected adverse drug reactions reported through the UK Yellow Card Scheme. Reports are of reactions suspected of being medicine-related; a causal association may not have been confirmed. The number of reports can be filtered and viewed according to factors such as patient age or sex, or by year of report. Suspected reactions are listed by system organ class. The list is expandable into smaller divisions, allowing the user to see the number of reports for specific reactions.  Each iDAP contains essential guidance (at the bottom of the report) that explains the context of the data available. To find an individual iDAP, use the A-Z list to choose the drug you want. Medicines are listed alphabetically by active ingredient. iDAPs are not available for combination products; find the iDAP for an individual ingredient then look at the column of reports for 'multiple active constituents'

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<b>MHRA Drug Safety Update</b> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update">www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update</a>	Free access online	Published monthly, this bulletin highlights current areas of concern in medicines safety, such as adverse reactions, drug interactions and concerns over medicine use in specific patient groups. Individual articles are listed on the website; the full bulletin can be downloaded as a PDF.
<b>Other sources</b>		
<b>Company medical information departments.</b> Contact details for most manufacturers are available on the <a href="#">eMC</a> website.	Free	Drug manufacturers may have unpublished data on file regarding reports of adverse reactions.

<b>Breast feeding</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>Content</b>
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	BNF statements on use of medicines during breastfeeding are very brief and may be based largely on SPC statements. As such, the information is generally over cautious.
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Specific guidelines give advice on the management of conditions that may occur in breastfeeding mothers e.g. mastitis and post-natal depression. There is also a general guideline on breastfeeding problems.
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> Via SPS <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Guidance is provided to help decision making about the use of medicines in breastfeeding. See: - <a href="#">Safety in breastfeeding</a>  To find specific advice for individual medicines, see UKDILAS below.
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc">www.medicines.org.uk/emc</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	Section 4.6 (Fertility, pregnancy and lactation) clarifies the licensed status of medicines use during lactation. This is sometimes more cautious than current evidence requires and should not be used as the only source of information.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>UK Drugs in Lactation Advisory Service (UKDILAS)</b> <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>  Healthcare professionals can contact UKDILAS directly (Mon – Fri 09.00 to 17.00, excluding Bank Holidays)  Tel: 0116 258 6491 Email:ukdilas.enquiries@nhs.net	Free access online	UKDILAS produces concise monographs on individual drugs and drug classes. Suitable alternatives are listed where appropriate.  To find the monograph for a specific drug, search for the drug name, then open the individual drug entry. Scroll down until you get to 'Lactation Safety Information'. There will be brief information for the individual drug, sometimes with a link to a therapeutic group summary.  If you are contacting UKDILAS directly, ensure you have gathered information on both the mother and infant first. See: - <a href="#">Questions to ask when giving advice on medicines and breastfeeding</a>
<b>LactMed</b> <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK501922/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK501922/</a>	Free access online	Provides comprehensive monographs on individual drugs. It is considered a reputable and up to date resource. To search for a drug monograph, type the drug name in the box and click 'search this book' or select the drug name from the alphabetical list. If a drug affects the actual lactation process itself, this information is also included. Monographs are referenced and have the date of last revision at the

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		<p>top.</p> <p>Note: this is an American site, so care should be taken. US names may differ from UK names.</p>
<p><b>e-lactancia</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.e-lactancia.org/">https://www.e-lactancia.org/</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>A Spanish website with an English version provided. Searches can be performed by drug name or group. The information is presented as monographs and includes a lactation risk category, information around use, and useful pharmacokinetic data. Suitable alternatives are listed where available. This resource may add additional practical information.</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <p>Unless specified otherwise, information applies only to healthy, full-term infants. Additional advice must be sought if the infant is pre-term or has compromised health.</p> <p>UKMi medicines information centres have access to additional resources if further information is required or the enquiry cannot be answered from the resources available.</p> <p>At least TWO resources should be used for all breastfeeding enquiries.</p>		



Children		
Title	Access	Content
General resources		
<b>BNFC</b>	See earlier	The BNFC is the standard UK resource for information on the use of medicines for children.
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free online access	<p>See the 'Have I got the right topic?' section to see which age group the guideline applies to. Examples of relevant summaries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Autism in Children</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Constipation in children</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">GORD in children</a></li> </ul> <p>For full list of relevant summaries, see: <a href="#">Child health   Specialities   CKS   NICE</a></p>
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc">www.medicines.org.uk/emc</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	SPCs provide information on the age for which the medicine is licensed.
More specialised resources		
<b>Medicines for Children</b> <a href="http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/">www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	<p>Extensive range of information leaflets about medicines for health professionals, parents and carers. There are leaflets on specific medicines and for general medicines advice. There are also useful leaflets and videos about how to give different types of medicines to children. Information leaflets are written in plain English and contain practical advice, for example, what to do if a dose of medicines is missed.</p> <p>The website is maintained by the RCPCH (Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health), the NPPG (Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group) and the charity WellChild.</p>
<b>Evelina Paediatric Formulary</b> (Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust) via <a href="#">Clinibee</a>	Free access online Registration required	This formulary provides guidance on use of medicines in children, and incorporates expert opinions of paediatricians. It should be used alongside other resources e.g. BNFC, SPCs, & other local, regional and national prescribing guidelines.
<b>Children's Hospitals websites</b> For example: <a href="#">Great Ormond Street Hospital</a>	Free access online	Many children's hospital websites provide useful information leaflets for parents and carers about different procedures and treatments, and medicines.
Notes: UKMi medicines information centres may have access to additional resources.		

Complementary medicines		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> Via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	SPS has a variety of resources on complementary medicines including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Handling questions about herbal medicines (or dietary supplements) and conventional medicines</a></li> </ul> Use search term “complementary medicine” and/or supplement name to find other relevant articles
<b>Martindale: the complete drug reference</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online	Martindale includes monographs on many herbal and complementary medicines. See also chapter on ‘Miscellaneous Drugs and Other Substances’.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See ‘More Information Sources’ then ‘Medicines Information Resources’
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Some CKS topics include advice on complementary medicines, for example menopause, premenstrual syndrome and osteoarthritis.
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc">www.medicines.org.uk/emc</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	Some herbal preparations are classified as ‘traditional herbal medicinal products’ and have MHRA-approved SPCs and PILs. For example some brands of St Johns’ Wort tablets, agnus castus capsules, Echinacea tablets and tea tree oil.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre</b> <a href="https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/diagnosis-treatment/symptom-management/integrative-medicine/herbs">https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/diagnosis-treatment/symptom-management/integrative-medicine/herbs</a>	Free access online	This US website provides evidence-based information about herbs, botanicals, and other supplements. Monographs include brief information on uses (not just in cancer), mechanism of action, contraindications, adverse effects and interactions. For each monograph, information is presented in two sections: one for patients and caregivers and one for healthcare professionals. Monographs are written in plain English and are referenced. The date of review is at the bottom.  To find monographs click on ‘Search About Herbs’ on the left hand side of the screen, then either enter a term in the search box, or browse the A-Z list of monographs by name. Note that the monographs may have a different name from that you expect (e.g. hypericum is only listed as St John’s Wort).  The website also provides answers to some questions about herbal medicines. Click on ‘Herbs, Botanicals & Other products: FAQs’ in the list on the left hand side of the screen.

<b>Stockley's Drug Interactions</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	A standard reference text for drug interactions. Stockley's includes information on some herbal medicines. Advice is provided on managing interactions and their clinical importance.  *Should always be used in conjunction with Stockley's Interactions Checker.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Stockley's Interaction Checker</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	Interactions are summarised in a few short lines to give a quick guide as to whether drugs and /or other substances can be given together.  *Should be used in conjunction with Stockley's Drug Interactions.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Herbal Medicines</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	Monographs provide information on uses, dosage, pharmacological actions, evidence of efficacy, adverse effects and contraindications of herbal medicines. Limited information provided on safety in pregnancy and breastfeeding, and drug interactions.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
Notes: Some UKMi medicines information centres have access to further resources e.g. Natural Medicines Database, Stockley's Herbal Medicines Interactions, and Dietary Supplements.		

Contraception and family planning		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> Via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	SPS has a variety of resources on contraception and reproductive health. Use search term 'contraception' and/or drug name to find relevant articles.
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free online access	There are a variety of CKS topics on contraception, including assessment, natural family planning, barrier methods and spermicides, combined hormonal methods, progestogen-only methods, intra-uterine system and device (IUS/IUD), sterilization and emergency contraception.
<b>BNF</b>	See earlier	Includes treatment summaries on contraceptives (hormonal and non-hormonal) and on interactions with contraceptives.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)</b> <a href="http://www.fsrh.org/">www.fsrh.org/</a> (previously the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare (FFPRHC))	Free access online	This site provides access to useful guidance documents produced by FSRH, a faculty of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. To view available documents, click on 'Standards and Guidance' in the bar towards the top of the homepage. This provides links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UKMEC (UK Medical Eligibility Criteria) for contraceptive use – provides guidance on the choice of contraceptive for individual patients based on personal characteristics and medical conditions (including age, smoking history and family and personal medical history)</li> <li>- FSRH Guidelines and Statements - a collection of documents including guidance on contraceptive choices for specific patient groups and contraceptive advice for women taking medicines with teratogenic potential. There are also method-specific guidelines – those for oral contraceptives include missed-pill advice.</li> <li>- Clinical Standards - relate to service provision such as confidentiality and record keeping</li> </ul>

Diagnostic tests		
Title	Access	Content
<b>Lab Tests Online UK</b> <a href="http://www.labtestsonline.org.uk">www.labtestsonline.org.uk</a>	Free access online	This website is aimed at patients and provides useful information about specific laboratory tests. For each test it describes the sample used, why it is tested and what the test results can indicate. It is produced by the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

Drug interactions		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	Open the relevant drug monograph then click on 'Interactions' in the list on the left hand side of the screen. Click on the drug name hyperlink to bring up a list of interacting drugs in alphabetical order. The severity of an interaction is stated (mild, moderate, severe or unknown) and the level of evidence for the interaction is indicated (study, theoretical or anecdotal). For some interactions, an 'action message' is given; information for these comes mainly from SPCs and the MHRA.
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> Via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	SPS has a variety of resources on drug interactions.  Click on 'Guidance' in the top toolbar of the SPS homepage, then select 'Interactions'.  Alternatively, use search term 'interaction' and/or drug name to find relevant articles.
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc">www.medicines.org.uk/emc</a>  or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	Section 4.5 specifically relates to interactions but other useful sections to check include: contraindications (4.3), special warnings and precautions for use (4.4), and pharmacokinetic properties (5.2).
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Stockley's Drug Interactions via MedicinesComplete</b>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	A standard reference text for drug interactions; the online version is updated more frequently than the paper copy.  Detailed monographs describe the evidence, mechanism, clinical importance and management of drug interactions.  *Should be used in conjunction with Stockley's Interactions Checker.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Stockley's Interactions Checker via MedicinesComplete</b>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	The Interaction Checker allows users to search for interactions between multiple medicines, or for interactions between medicines and food, drink and smoking.  Interactions are summarised in a few short lines to give a quick ready-reference. A colour coded key is also used to indicate the likely significance of an interaction. Links to the corresponding detailed and fully referenced monographs are provided.  *Should be used in conjunction with Stockley's Drug Interactions  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>HIV drug interactions checker</b> <a href="http://www.hiv-druginteractions.org/">www.hiv-druginteractions.org/</a>  <b>HEP drug interactions checker</b> <a href="http://www.hep-druginteractions.org/">www.hep-druginteractions.org/</a>	Free access online	Maintained by the University of Liverpool, both websites provide useful information on interactions with HIV and hepatitis medicines respectively, including an interactive checker and printable charts.  Further information including 'Treatment selectors' tables showing therapeutic options for a range of common co-morbidities (e.g. analgesics, antidepressants) and their potential for interactions with different HIV / hepatitis medicines are available via the Prescribing Resources section of the websites.

<b>Cancer drug interactions checker</b> <a href="https://cancer-druginteractions.org/">https://cancer-druginteractions.org/</a>	Free access online	Maintained by the University of Liverpool (UK) and Radboud University Medical Centre (Netherlands), this website provides useful information on interactions with anticancer drugs, including an interactive checker.
<b>COVID-19 Drug Interaction checker</b> <a href="https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/checker">https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/checker</a>	Free access online	<p>Maintained by the University of Liverpool, this website provides useful information on interactions with drugs used for the treatment of COVID-19, including an interactive checker and printable charts.</p> <p>Further information including a guide to 'Evaluating the interaction risk of COVID-19 therapies', 'Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) Resources' and 'Interaction Summary Tables' are available via the Prescribing Resources section of the website.</p>
<b>Contraceptive medicines interactions</b> via <a href="#">Faculty of Sexual &amp; Reproductive Healthcare</a>	Free access online	The Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) provides useful guidance on drug interactions with hormonal contraception.
<b>QT interval interactions</b> <a href="http://www.crediblemeds.org">www.crediblemeds.org</a>	Free access online (registration required)	This US site provides a searchable database of medicines that prolong the QT interval and/or Torsades de Pointes. Drugs are categorised according to risk: known risk, possible risk, or conditional risk of TdP.

Drug misuse		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	<p>The chapter 'Controlled drugs and drug dependence' found under the 'Guidance' section provides information on legislation relating to the prescribing of drugs associated with dependence or abuse, and prescribing for substance dependence.</p> <p>See also 'Substance dependence' under the 'Treatment Summaries' section which provides links to guidance on treatment of drug misuse, and information on alcohol, nicotine and opioid dependence.</p>
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Relevant summaries available include alcohol-problem drinking, benzodiazepine and z-drug withdrawal, and opioid dependence.
<b>Martindale: the complete drug reference</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a> or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	<p>Drug monographs (under 'Drug nomenclature' and 'Preparations') state if a drug/preparation is restricted for use in sport. It uses the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) list of drugs.</p> <p>Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'</p>
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	<p>Examples of relevant guidance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Choosing an equivalent dose of oral benzodiazepine</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Reversing an adult opioid overdose with naloxone in the medical setting</a></li> </ul>
<b>NICE</b> <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>	Free access online	There are a variety of relevant NICE documents available at <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/health-protection/drug-misuse">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/health-protection/drug-misuse</a>
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<a href="#">Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (The Orange Book) Update 2017</a>	Free access online	<p>Often called the 'Orange Book' this document provides UK clinical guidance on the management of people with drug misuse and drug dependence problems. It is published by the Department of Health and was last updated in 2017.</p> <p>NB: Do not confuse with the MHRA 'Orange Guide' on good practice in pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution.</p>
<b>Talk to Frank</b> <a href="http://www.talktofrank.com">www.talktofrank.com</a>	Free access online	An independent government-funded website providing reliable information for young people and their parents or carers about all aspects of substance misuse. Provides contact details if they need to speak to someone.
<b>DrugWise</b> <a href="https://www.drugwise.org.uk/">https://www.drugwise.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	DrugWise (formerly DrugScope) is a UK independent organisation with expertise on drug misuse. The website includes a 'DrugSearch Encyclopaedia' with information on illegal drugs, prescription drugs, and legal highs. Entries contain brief information about mechanism of action, effects/risks, harm reduction, and the law. There is also a section on 'Prescribed & OTC drug dependence' as well as a 'Drugs FAQs' page (click on 'Drug Information' in the toolbar then select the required link from the drop-down menu).



<b>Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)</b> <b>Drugs and driving: the law</b> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law">www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law</a>	Free access online	<p>This section of the UK Government website provides information on the law regarding driving and illicit drugs and prescription medicines.</p> <p>A guide for medical professionals on assessing fitness to drive is available <a href="#">here</a>. It includes chapters on neurological disorders, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes mellitus, psychiatric disorders, drug or alcohol misuse or dependence, visual disorders, renal and respiratory disorders and miscellaneous conditions.</p>
<b>Drugs in sport</b>		
<b>UK Anti-Doping (UKAD)</b> <a href="http://www.ukad.org.uk">www.ukad.org.uk</a>	Free access online	<p>UK Anti-Doping is the national body responsible for implementation and management of the UK's National Anti-Doping policy and is responsible for ensuring sports bodies comply with the World Anti-Doping Code.</p> <p>The website provides information about 'What's banned in sport' with a link to the current Prohibited List, and TUEs (Therapeutic Use Exemptions).</p>
<b>WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency)</b> <a href="http://www.wada-ama.org">www.wada-ama.org</a>	Free access online	<p>WADA is an international independent agency. It monitors the World Anti-Doping Code. The website contains the Prohibited List, published annually in October: the list comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January the following year.</p> <p>Other useful articles are available in the 'Resources' section. Select a topic to bring up a list of documents.</p>

## Drug stability / pharmaceutical issues

Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Includes guidance on lactose, sodium content, and other excipients used in medicines. Click on 'Guidance' in the top toolbar of the SPS homepage, then select a link from the list provided e.g. 'Excipients' or 'Cautions and contraindications'. See also: <a href="#">Handling questions about excipients</a>
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	Section 6 of SPCs includes a 'List of excipients*' (6.1), and information on 'Incompatibilities' (6.2), 'Shelf-life' (6.3), 'Special precautions for storage' (6.4), 'Nature and contents of container' (6.5), and 'Special precautions for disposal and other handling' (6.6).  *Does not always contain information on excipients which are present in trace amounts. If the patient has a severe allergy, contact the manufacturer to confirm.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Refrigerated Storage (SPS)</b> <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Guidance on managing temperature excursions (including remedial action to take and information to gather) is provided. See: - <a href="#">Managing temperature excursions</a>  Information on the stability of specific medicines outside recommended storage conditions is also available on the SPS website. To find information for a specific drug, search for the drug name, then open the individual drug entry. Scroll down until you get to 'Refrigerated Storage'.  Information on stability is provided by drug companies. Each entry lists the brand name & manufacturer, formulation(s), and stability data. Entries note whether the expiry date should be altered and if the product should be returned to the fridge or not. Information is not available for all products. The date the entry was last reviewed is listed.
<b>Medicines in Compliance Aids (MCA) Stability Tool (SPS)</b> <a href="https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/tools/medicines-in-compliance-aids-stability-tool/">https://www.sps.nhs.uk/home/tools/medicines-in-compliance-aids-stability-tool/</a>	Free access online	Information on the stability of tablets and capsules transferred from their original packaging into multi-compartment compliance aids (MCA) is available using the MCA Stability Tool on the SPS website.  To find information for a specific drug, enter the drug name in the search box, and then choose the appropriate entry from the list of results.  Each entry lists the brand name and manufacturer, strength and formulation, and a recommendation of suitability for use in compliance aids. Stability notes provide additional information on any relevant considerations and special measures required. Each entry also provides links to other formulations and suppliers of the same drug for exploration. The MCA Stability Tool allows you to find entries and then build and print lists specific to your MCA
Notes:  For information on crushing/splitting tablets or opening capsules see the "Administration of medicines" section of this document.		

Identification of medicines		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access  online	SPCs contain a product description (including form, size, colour and markings) in section 3 'Pharmaceutical form'.  To look for a tablet or capsule with specific markings, use the 'Advanced Search' function (see earlier).
<b>Martindale: the complete drug reference</b> <a href="http://via.MedicinesComplete">via MedicinesComplete</a> or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online  For NHS Scotland Staff	Search by preparation name, if known. Many foreign generic and brand names are included in drug monographs.  To view a list of preparations available for either a particular country or manufacturer, from the homepage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Select 'Preparations' then 'By Country' then choose the relevant country.</li> <li>- Select 'Preparations' then 'By Manufacturer' then choose the manufacturer name</li> </ul> Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>TICTAC</b> <a href="http://www.tictac.org.uk/">www.tictac.org.uk/</a>	Via UKMi regional centres	UKMi regional centres have access to the TICTAC drug identification system. This searchable database contains pictures and descriptions of thousands of legal and illicit solid-dose drugs.  Please provide as much information about the tablet or capsule you are trying to identify (e.g. markings, scoring, accurate size, shape and colour) as possible.
<b>Notes:</b>  Take into account all the available information when trying to identify products. For example, likely indication and patient's other medicines. It is not always possible to identify a tablet or capsule from its markings.		

Immunisation and vaccines (see also Travel)		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	Note that printed versions might be out of date. Always check the current immunisation schedule using an online source.
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc">www.medicines.org.uk/emc</a>  or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	SPCs for vaccines are the same as for other prescription medicines.  Note: dosage schedules in SPCs may differ from those recommended nationally by specialist organisations.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Public Health Scotland – Immunisations</b> <a href="https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/immunisations/">https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/immunisations/</a>	Free access online	This section of the Public Health Scotland website provides information about immunisations for healthcare professionals, including seasonal immunisations, immunisation schedules by age group, and additional vaccinations recommended for those in a clinical risk group.  Patient Group Direction (PGD) templates for administration of vaccines are available: Click on 'Immunisations by vaccine' then select the appropriate vaccine name. PGD templates are found under the subheading 'Resources for healthcare professionals'.
<b>Immunisation (NHS Inform)</b> <a href="https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation">https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation</a>	Free access online	Provides information for the public about immunisations and vaccines in Scotland. The website has up-to-date information on vaccines and immunisation, including why immunisation is important, when to immunise, what vaccines are available and which diseases they protect against.
<b>Immunisation against infectious disease (the <i>Green Book</i>)</b> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book">www.gov.uk/government/organizations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book</a>	Free access online (NB: Print versions are out of date)	Produced by Public Health England, this online book provides comprehensive information about diseases and vaccines, including advice on cautions and contraindications, and immunisation of individuals with underlying medical conditions. Individual chapters are updated as required. Click on the chapter you want to view.  <b>NB: Make sure to look at the current version of the chapter you want. Be careful not to use chapter update patches or old chapters; the website allows access to the 2006 edition of the book which is out of date.</b>
<b>Scottish Vaccine Update</b> <a href="https://hps.scot.nhs.uk/publications/scottish-vaccine-update/">https://hps.scot.nhs.uk/publications/scottish-vaccine-update/</a>	Free access online	Scottish Vaccine Update is a national bulletin on immunisations in Scotland. It provides healthcare professionals with information and practical advice on immunisation policy and practice together with vaccine supply information. It is published regularly (most months). Current and archive editions are available online.  Latest versions are available on the Public Health Scotland website. Note: Publication was temporarily paused during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<b>COVID-19 vaccines (SPS)</b> <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	SPS provides information and guidance on pharmaceutical aspects of COVID-19 vaccines' use, including information on vaccine characteristics, cautions and contraindications, and administration in specific patient groups e.g. pregnancy and breastfeeding. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Covid-19-vaccines</a></li> </ul>

Mental health		
Title	Access	Content
General resources		
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Useful and practical summaries on mental health conditions including: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Depression, Generalized anxiety disorder, Insomnia, and Post-traumatic stress disorder.  For full list, see <a href="#">Specialities-Mental Health</a>
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	There are a variety of resources on mental health and illness including how to switch from one antidepressant to another, and choosing an antidepressant to switch a person to.  Click on 'Guidance' in the top toolbar of the SPS homepage, then select 'Switching'  Use search term 'mental health' and/or drug name to find other relevant articles.
<b>The Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines in Psychiatry</b>  via The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online	Evidence-based handbook on the safe and effective prescribing of psychotropic agents. It covers both common, and complex prescribing situations encountered in day to day clinical practice, providing expert guidance on drug choice, minimum and maximum doses, adverse effects, switching medications, prescribing for special patient groups, and more.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Choice and Medication</b> <a href="http://www.choiceandmedication.org/nhs24">www.choiceandmedication.org/nhs24</a>	Free access online	Designed to complement mental health information available on NHS Inform, this website provides independent information for patients about mental health conditions and the medicines used to treat them.  Resources include printable leaflets such as patient information for medicines (available in several different languages), factsheets on various topics (e.g starting and stopping medicines) and charts to compare medicines for a condition.
<b>Notes:</b> UKMi medicines information centres have access to additional specialised resources e.g. the Psychotropic Drug Directory.		

## New medicines and horizon scanning

Title	Access	Content
<p>The SPS Horizon scanning service produces information to support managed entry of new drugs into the NHS. Resources are for NHS staff with budget setting, prescribing planning and medicines management responsibilities. Further information about the service is available <a href="#">here</a> and includes a handy guide to horizon scanning terminology, a presentation on the development process for medicines and a Q&amp;A document on finding information about newly launched medicines.</p> <p><b>The following resources are produced by the SPS Horizon Scanning Service and published on the SPS website.</b> Free registration is required for access to some information that is commercially sensitive; users must be logged in to the SPS website to see it.</p>		
<p><b>Prescribing Outlook</b>  <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online            (registration required for full access)</p>	<p>Prescribing Outlook published annually aims to support managed entry and budget planning for new medicines, new indications and patent expiries in the NHS. It provides information on new medicines that may have financial and operational implications in the current and next financial year. It is published each autumn in line with annual budget planning timeframes.</p> <p>Prescribing Outlook is published as an Excel spreadsheet which contains information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pipeline new medicines including financial cost impact calculator (in previous years this was a separate document known as Prescribing Outlook Cost Calculator)</li> <li>- Pipeline cancer medicines</li> <li>- Pipeline ATMPs</li> <li>- Patent expiries</li> <li>- Pipeline biosimilars</li> </ul> <p>Note: this document combines previously published separate documents New Medicines and Cost Calculator</p> <p>To find it, click on 'Planning' in the top toolbar of the SPS homepage. then 'Annual medicines planning', then 'Private: Annual planning advice for new medicines, Prescribing Outlook' (under subheading 'Planning'),</p> <p>A link is also available to a webinar explaining how Prescribing Outlook is produced, and how to use the spreadsheet and Cost Calculator.</p>
<p><b>New Medicines News</b>  <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>Published monthly, this news bulletin highlights recent new product launches and significant medicines regulatory changes. It can be used to follow progress of medicines included in Prescribing Outlook.</p> <p>To find it, type 'New Medicines News', in the search box.</p>
<p><b>New Product Launches</b>  <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>Annual lists of new products and formulations that have launched, and had licence changes approved. Usually published each February.</p> <p>Note: the lists do not include generics unless they are licensed for a new indication that the originator brand is not licensed for, or they are presented in a new formulation with significant patient benefits.</p> <p>To find it, click on 'Planning' in the top toolbar of the SPS homepage, then 'Annual medicines planning', then 'Lists of new product launches' found under subheading 'New Products'</p>
<p><b>New Product Evaluations</b>  <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a></p>	<p>Free access online</p>	<p>This document, published monthly, provides a list of new product evaluations that are freely available to NHS staff via the internet. It includes independent evaluations published in the last three years, or that are due to be published in the near future.</p> <p>To find it, type 'New Product Evaluations' in the search box.</p>

**Notes:**

If you can't find the information you need in the resources listed above or need more detailed or tailored support e.g. in the form of spreadsheets, you can email SPS Horizon Scanning Service at [nwmedinfo@nhs.net](mailto:nwmedinfo@nhs.net) on a case by case basis.



Palliative care		
Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary</b>	See earlier	The section 'Prescribing in palliative care' (in the 'Guidance' section) includes information about pain and symptom management, and medicines administration via syringe drivers. Information on approximately equivalent doses of opioid analgesics are provided in tables within the text.
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	There are several relevant summaries on different aspects of palliative care including pain, constipation, cough, dyspnoea, nausea and vomiting, and secretions. For full list, see <a href="#">Specialities -Palliative Care</a>
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> Via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Guidance is provided on switching between oral morphine and other oral opioids. For example see: - <a href="#">Switching between oral morphine and other oral opioids in adult palliative cancer care patients</a> Use search term 'palliative' and/or drug name to find other relevant articles.
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Palliative Care Adult Network Guidelines (PANG)</b> <a href="http://book.pallcare.info/">http://book.pallcare.info/</a>	Free access online	This website is for healthcare professionals working in palliative care. It offers up-to-date evidence based information and guidance on professional aspects of palliative care. Navigate the site using the index headings on the left side of the screen.  To access the syringe driver compatibility database, click on 'SD drug compatibility' towards the bottom of the Index list on the left side of the screen.
<b>Palliative Care Formulary (PCF)</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a>  or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland staff	The PCF is a comprehensive resource for medicines use in palliative care. Information is divided into 'Drug Monographs', 'General Topics', and 'Routes of Administration'. It includes unlicensed (off-label) indications and routes, and details about the administration of multiple drugs by continuous subcutaneous infusion (CSCI).  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'
<b>Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines</b> <a href="http://www.palliativecareguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/">www.palliativecareguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/</a>	Free access online	The Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines are for healthcare professionals from any care setting who are involved in supporting people with a palliative life-limiting condition. They provide, in a readily usable format, practical, evidence- or best-practice based guidance on the management of a range of common clinical issues.
<b>Palliative Care Matters</b> <a href="https://m.pallcare.info/">https://m.pallcare.info/</a>	Free access online (registration required)	Website for healthcare professionals working in palliative care. Includes a syringe driver compatibility database (use in preference to PANG for syringe driver compatibilities). Also includes an opioid conversion calculator.
<p>Notes:</p> <p>UKMi medicines information centres have access to additional resources if further information is required e.g. on syringe driver compatibility of medicines.</p> <p>For questions relating to the management of specific patients, it can be helpful to contact the community palliative care team or MacMillan nurse caring for the patient; these specialists often work closely with district nurses.</p>		

## Patent expiry

Title	Access	Content
<b>Patents Expiries via Prescribing Outlook (SPS)</b> <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online (requires registration/login to SPS)	<p>Prescribing Outlook-New Medicines and Patent Expiries includes a link to an excel spreadsheet containing a list of medicines whose patents will expire in the next three years.</p> <p>To find it, click on 'Planning' in the top toolbar of the SPS homepage, then 'Annual medicines planning', then under the heading Planning, click on 'Private: Annual planning advice for new medicines, Prescribing outlook'. A link to the excel spreadsheet is available under the section on 'New Medicines and Patent Expiries'.</p> <p>NB: Patent expiry information is only accessible to registered users of the SPS site. Users must be logged in to view this information.</p>

## Poisoning and toxicity

Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	Drug monographs provide information on usual maximum doses that can be helpful.
<b>SPCs</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	SPC section 4.9 (Overdose) may provide information on the symptoms and management of toxicity. Section 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties may also be helpful, for example to find a drug's half-life.
<b>Martindale: the complete drug reference</b> <a href="#">via MedicinesComplete</a> or The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home.aspx</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland Staff	<p>Drug monographs may include information on higher-than-licensed doses (under 'Uses and administration') and on overdosage (under 'Adverse effects'). Monographs also include information on pharmacokinetics including elimination half-life.</p> <p>Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'</p>
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>TOXBASE</b> <a href="http://www.toxbase.org">www.toxbase.org</a>	Free access online (registration required) A mobile <a href="#">app</a> is also freely available to NHS staff.	<p>This website provides information from the National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) on the symptoms and management of poisoning by medicines, plants, household chemicals and other substances.</p> <p>Registration (free of charge to NHS and NHS-affiliated departments, units and practices) is required. One person is required to register on behalf of each department, unit or GP practice</p> <p>Before using the website, it is advisable to complete the TOXBASE e-learning module available at <a href="http://www.toxlearning.co.uk">www.toxlearning.co.uk</a></p> <p>UKMI medicines information centres have access to TOXBASE. See however note below.</p>
<b>Notes:</b> In cases of acute poisoning, symptomatic toxicity or for complex cases, contact the National Poisons Information Service directly for advice on 0344 892 0111. This telephone number is available 24 hours a day and is for healthcare professionals only.		

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Pregnancy		
Title	Access	Content
General resources		
<b>British National Formulary</b>	See above	Drug monographs include only brief information on safety of drugs in pregnancy which is largely based on SPC statements.
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	Many summaries include information on the management of that condition during pregnancy. There are also specific summaries on some common medical conditions in pregnancy including itch, dyspepsia, and nausea and vomiting. For full list, see: <a href="#">Specialities - Pregnancy</a>
<b>Summaries of Product Characteristics (SPCs)</b> <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/">www.medicines.org.uk/emc/</a> or <a href="https://products.mhra.gov.uk/">https://products.mhra.gov.uk/</a>	Free access online	SPC section 4.6 (Fertility, Pregnancy and Lactation) clarifies the licensed status of a medicine's use in pregnancy. Manufacturers generally take an overly cautious approach due to lack of data. This should not be used as a sole information source; check other sources for information but bear in mind the manufacturer's recommendation.
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> Via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Guidance is provided to help decision making about the use of medicines in pregnancy. See: - <a href="#">Safety in pregnancy</a>  Use search term 'pregnancy' and/or drug name to find other relevant articles.
More specialised resources		
<b>UKTIS</b> <a href="http://www.uktis.org">www.uktis.org</a>	Free access online (registration required)	Detailed monographs for healthcare professionals, produced by the UK Teratology Information Service (UKTIS) are available on this website. The monographs provide evidence-based information on fetal risk for medicines and chemical exposures during pregnancy. There are also monographs on the management of various conditions during pregnancy including pain, migraine and nausea and vomiting.  To access monographs enter drug name or condition in the search box. Alternatively click on 'Resources' then 'Information for healthcare providers' for full alphabetical list of monographs.  To access the full content of monographs for healthcare professionals individuals need to register on the site with an nhs email address.
<b>BUMPS (Best Use of Medicines in Pregnancy)</b> <a href="http://www.medicinesinpregnancy.org/">www.medicinesinpregnancy.org/</a>	Free access online	This site provides information leaflets produced by UKTIS for pregnant women and their partners which can be used in discussion with a healthcare provider e.g. pharmacist, GP or midwife, to help make informed decisions.  Information leaflets cover a variety of medicines, drug classes, recreational drugs, and products such as face cream and hair dye.  The site also has an 'online reporting' facility for women to record their drug exposure during a current or previous pregnancy in order to help UKTIS understand how medicines, lifestyles or illnesses may affect foetal development.
<b>Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation. Briggs G et al.</b> via The Knowledge Network <a href="http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/">www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/</a>	Free access online	US reference source; some drug names may be different.  Drug monographs are listed in alphabetical order and provide in-depth data which should be interpreted with care.  Each monograph is assigned a risk category and summary paragraph. Do not rely solely on these; always read the full monograph.  Available via The Knowledge Network. See 'More Information Sources' then 'Medicines Information Resources'.

**Notes:**

UKMi medicines information centres have access to further, more specialised resources.

Health professionals may also contact UKTIS directly if necessary on 0344 892 0909. A routine enquiry-answering service is available between 9am and 5pm on weekdays; urgent queries can be answered at all times.

At least TWO resources should be used for all pregnancy enquiries.

Title	Access	Content
<b>General resources</b>		
<b>British National Formulary and BNFC</b>	See earlier	The BNF and BNFC include recommendations for malaria prophylaxis for travellers. Click on 'Treatment Summaries' tab, then 'Malaria, prophylaxis'.
<b>Clinical Knowledge Summaries</b> <a href="http://cks.nice.org.uk/">http://cks.nice.org.uk/</a>	Free access online	There are several useful CKS topics relating to travel including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">DVT prevention for travellers</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Diarrhoea - prevention and advice for travellers</a></li> </ul>
<b>Relevant articles and guidance</b> Via SPS website <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Guidance on travel medicine includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Using medicines for preventing acute mountain sickness</a></li> </ul> <p>Use search term travel and/or drug name to find other relevant articles.</p>
<b>More specialised resources</b>		
<b>Travax</b> <a href="http://www.travax.nhs.uk">www.travax.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online for NHS Scotland (Registration required)	This site is produced for healthcare professionals by Public Health Scotland. It provides up-to-date advice on vaccines, antimalarials and other aspects of travel medicine. <p>Click on 'Country A-Z' and select appropriate destination(s) for country specific advice on any vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis recommended prior to and during travel.</p> <p>Further useful information e.g. relating to immunocompromised travellers, malaria prophylaxis for patients with pre-existing medical conditions, venous thromboembolism, and travelling with medication can be accessed via the 'Health Advice A-Z' tab on the homepage.</p>
<b>Fit for Travel</b> <a href="http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk">www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Free access online	Produced by Public Health Scotland and NHS Scotland, this is the sister-site to Travax and is freely available to members of the public and healthcare professionals. <p>Destination-specific information is provided, including antimalarial and vaccine recommendations (note: Scottish malaria advice can differ from UK advice).</p> <p>For each country, colour-coded 'malaria maps' show which regions are considered high, low and low to no risk, for malaria.</p> <p>Other travel health advice is divided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General travel health advice, covering a variety of topics including air travel, animal bites, and advice for those on expeditions and volunteers.</li> <li>- Disease prevention advice, such as for dengue fever and Lyme disease.</li> </ul> <p>From the homepage, click on 'A to Z Index' to bring up a full list of countries and topics.</p>
<p>For more complex enquiries:</p> <p>A NaTHNaC (National Travel Health Network and Centre) helpline is available for healthcare professionals answering questions regarding travel scenarios involving complex itineraries or travellers with special health needs. Please check other key sources such as Travax or the Green Book before contacting NaTHNaC and have all relevant background available. A checklist of information to have available before calling is available. Click on 'Information for health professionals calling the advice line' at <a href="https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/contact.php">https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/contact.php</a></p> <p>The helpline is available on 020 7383 7474 at the following times:</p> <p>Mornings: Monday to Friday 09:00 to 11:00</p> <p>Afternoons: Mondays and Fridays 13:00 to 14:00; Tuesdays and Thursdays 13:00 to 15:30; Wednesdays 15:00 to 17:30</p>		