

Therapeutics Today

A publication by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC)

April 2026



Jump To: [Guidance and Advice](#) | [HSE Antibiotic Prescribing](#) | [Medication Safety](#) | [Other News](#) | [Signposting](#)

April 2026 | Issue 4

Welcome to the April edition of Therapeutics Today. This month's issue will highlight information, including guidance and advice, recently published by various organisations. Readers are also reminded of previously published NMIC bulletins, which are available on our website www.nmic.ie.

We welcome any feedback or comments which can be provided using the feedback button below or by emailing the NMIC directly at nmic@stjames.ie.

Guidance and Advice

UK Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)

The SPS are a team of pharmacy professionals and support staff commissioned by NHS England to provide advice and guidance on Medicines Optimisation. Recent publications that may be of interest include:

[Assessing the clinical impact of sodium content in medicines](#) - last updated 17th March 2026

[Parkinson's disease medicines in swallowing difficulties](#) - last updated 23rd March 2026

[Choosing an antidepressant for people with epilepsy](#) - last updated 26th March 2026

[Prescribing by generic or brand name](#) - last updated 31st March 2026

[Example medicines to prescribe by brand name](#) - last updated 2nd April 2026

[Advising on medicines during breastfeeding](#) - last updated 31st March 2026

[Questions to ask when giving advice on medicines and breastfeeding](#) - last updated 31st March 2026



[Learn more](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

Evidence-based recommendations for the NHS and wider health and social care sector, developed by independent committees, including professionals and lay members, and consulted on by stakeholders.

[Type 2 diabetes in adults: management](#) [NG28] - last updated 18th February 2026

[Kidney cancer: diagnosis and management](#) [NG256] - published 19th March

[Fertility problems: assessment and treatment](#) [NG257] - published 31st March 2026

[Fezolinetant for treating moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause](#) [TA1143] - published 31st March 2026

[Learn more](#)



The Scottish Government

The Scottish government has recently published the following guidance:

[Polypharmacy Guidance: Appropriate Prescribing - Making medicines safe, effective and sustainable 2026-2029](#)

This updated polypharmacy prescribing guidance aims to further improve the care of individuals taking multiple medicines through the use of 7-Steps medicine reviews and promotes a holistic approach to person-centred care.

[Quality Prescribing for Chronic Pain: A Guide for Improvement 2026-2029](#)

This guide aims to support clinicians managing chronic pain, particularly given the risks of adverse effects, potential for dependency and the association with polypharmacy, and the benefit of non-pharmacological options.

HSE Antibiotic Prescribing

Update about the antibioticprescribing.ie website

Our colleagues at the HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) programme have asked us to communicate to you that their Antibiotic Prescribing website is now back in action; full content on their prescribing guidance and antimicrobial stewardship has been restored and is now available at the same address as previously i.e., www.antibioticprescribing.ie.

Full details are available using the button below:



[Full Details](#)

Medication Safety

Medication Safety Minute

Readers are reminded of the "Medication Safety Minute", a collaborative project undertaken by two hospital consultants and the Medication Safety Facilitator (a pharmacist) in St James's Hospital.

These bite-sized messages, which may also include short videos, are published every week and are available via X @medsafetymn. Recent Medication Safety Minutes are linked directly below and include:

- [Treatment of Diabetic Ketoacidosis](#)
- [Perioperative insulin - Type 1 Diabetes](#)
- [Basal insulin - Type 1 Diabetes](#)



[Learn more](#)

Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) [website](#) contains the latest regulatory updates on medicines and information on [medicine shortages](#), as well as access to all currently approved product information (e.g. [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) [SmPCs]).

Drug Safety Newsletter

The [122nd edition of the HPRA Drug Safety Newsletter](#) includes important updates to support the safe and appropriate use of the following medicines:

- Hydroxycarbamide-containing medicinal products: Potential interference with continuous glucose monitoring systems
- Miconazole: Drug-drug interaction between miconazole topical formulations and warfarin
- Reporting suspected adverse reactions: The importance of reports of suspected adverse reactions to pharmacovigilance
- Product information updates recommended by the EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) for tamoxifen, netarsudil and vancomycin-containing medicines
- Direct Healthcare Professional Communications published on the HPRA website since the last Drug Safety Newsletter



[Read more](#)

Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (DHPC)

The HPRA has recently published an important Product Information Update (PIU) from GSK which highlights information about salbutamol pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDIs) without dose counters in relation to the number of prescribed doses available as per the label.

[Ventolin Evohaler 100 micrograms pressurised inhalation contains enough medicine for 200 puffs only](#)

Ventolin Evohaler 100mcg contains enough salbutamol for 200 actuations (puffs) only. After 200 actuations (puffs), the inhaler can continue to spray but without the prescribed dose of salbutamol.

Other News

Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG)

The UK NPPG has recently published a position statement which has been endorsed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) on [choosing an oral liquid medicine for children](#) (March 2026 update).



British Pharmacological Society

The British Pharmacological Society has issued a position statement about [medications in pregnancy and breastfeeding](#) - published 17th March 2026



UK Clinical Pharmacy Association Handbook of Pharmacogenomics

The UK Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA) Handbook of Pharmacogenomics aims to support the use of pharmacogenetic results to optimise medicines by providing healthcare professionals with evidence-based advice and guidance in a simple and easy to use format.

The resource has been endorsed by both the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the British Pharmacological Society and is free-to-access online.



[Learn more](#)

Signposting

- Blumenthal RS, Morris PB, Gaudino M, et al. [2026 ACC/AHA/AACVPR/ABC/ACPM/ADA/AGS/APhA/ASPC/NLA/PCNA Guideline on the Management of Dyslipidemia: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines](#). *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2026; Mar 13: S0735-1097(25)10254-4. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2025.11.016. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41824590.
- Elkhazragy A, Jonroy A, Payne RE. [Tablets before liquids? Rethinking paediatric prescribing in primary care](#). *British Journal of General Practice*. 2026; Mar 9:BJGP.2025.0652. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41802883.
- Zbozinek TD, Khalsa SS, Craske MG. [New and emerging treatments for anxiety disorders](#). *BMJ*. 2026; Mar 16: 392:e083441.
- Miles LM, et al. [Chronic heart failure in adults: diagnosis and management—summary of updated NICE guidance](#). *BMJ*. 2026; Mar 11: 392:s266. doi:https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.s266.
- Rosen CJ, Ingelfinger JR. [GLP-1 Receptor Agonists](#). *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2026; Apr 2:394(13):1313-24. (Accessible by HSE staff on [HSE Library Ireland](#)).
- Svendsen RMH, Hagesaether E, Fischer SM, et al. [Manipulating prednisolone tablets for paediatric adjustments—dose accuracy and precision](#). *European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*. 2026; Mar 17: doi:10.1136/ejpharm-2025-004873.

What do you think of *Therapeutics Today*?

Please share any suggestions/comments that you might have!

[Feedback](#)

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